



KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by **ARCHANT** KOS MEDIA Telephone: (01303) 817000**IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT**

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EYE-GOUGE RUGBY PLAYER FIGHTS ON

**EXCLUSIVE** 'I will seek legal advice'

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

SERVICES FACING EXTRA £25M CUT

**KCC budget plans
hit by Government
grant reductions**

**Public may have
to start paying
for some services**

**'It's accelerated
the savings we
have to make'**

FINANCE chiefs at County Hall have revealed public services will come under even more pressure with an additional £25 million needed in savings over the next two years.

The authority had initially forecast a £136m budget shortfall for 2011-13, but now predictions of government grant reductions combined with additional spending pressures has pushed the figure up to more than £161m.

The amount forms part of the £340m savings needed at Kent County Council over the next four years.

It is likely to mean residents are asked to pay for some services they previously received for free.

Authority bosses had not expected such a large shortfall in the first two years after councils nationwide had been told to expect government grant cuts of seven per cent every year for the next four years.

KCC cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds said the higher percentages came as a shock after lower predictions were announced at a KCC meeting just last month.

"What took us by surprise was we were expecting a grant reduction of 7.25 per cent in the first year, but it is just over 10.1 per cent for 2011-12," he said.

By **MARIJKE COX**

"For 2012-13 it is 8.6 per cent; in the third year 3.3 per cent; and then 7.9 per cent.

"It puts pressure on us because around 18 per cent is going to come out in the first two years. It's accelerated the savings we were going to make over the four years."

Cllr Simmonds admitted it was going to be difficult to take money out of the existing budget.

"We've already had £15.5m knocked out this year – we've got some considerable pressures," he said.

A report setting out the council's overall financial challenge is due to be discussed by cabinet members at a meeting on Monday, just two weeks before the Government announces exactly how much KCC will get in grants. The paper looks at "unavoidable" budget pressures and outlines the expected reductions.


Cllr Simmonds said the council had looked

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



Train fares to soar – again

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY



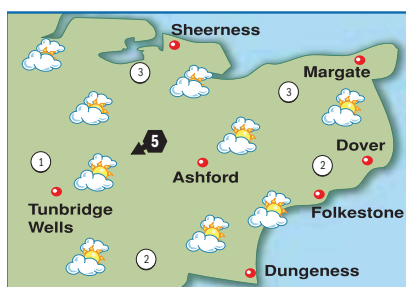
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Kent today



TODAY: There will be quite a bit of cloud around with the risk of sleet and snow showers, mostly of which will be light. A gentle easterly wind. Cold again. Max temp 1-4C (34-39F). **TONIGHT:** Largely dry with a widespread ground frost developing. Gentle easterly winds. Min temp -4 to -1C (25-30F).

Around Britain

| | °C | °F | | °C | °F |
|-------------|--------|------|------------|--------|------|
| Aberdeen | snow | 2 36 | London | cloudy | 3 37 |
| Belfast | fair | 2 36 | Liverpool | fair | 4 39 |
| Birmingham | fair | 1 34 | Manchester | fair | 2 36 |
| B'mouth | cloudy | 2 36 | Newcastle | snow | 2 36 |
| Bristol | snow | 3 37 | Norwich | snow | 4 39 |
| Cardiff | fair | 2 36 | Oxford | fair | 2 36 |
| Cork | fair | 2 36 | Southsea | cloudy | 4 39 |
| Edinburgh | snow | 3 37 | S'hampton | cloudy | 1 34 |
| Glasgow | fair | 3 37 | Southport | fair | 4 39 |
| Isle of Man | snow | 5 41 | Swansea | sun | 4 39 |
| Leeds | fair | 1 34 | Torquay | snow | 4 39 |

Sun & moon

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Sunrise | 7.35am | Sunset | 3.51pm | Lighting up times: |
| Moonrise | 11.38pm | Moonset | 12.07pm | 3.51pm to 7.36am |

High Tides

| | today | tomorrow |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | ht (m) | ht (m) |
| Dover | 03.12 6.1 15.42 5.9 | 04.14 6.0 16.53 5.8 |
| Margate | 03.54 4.4 16.39 4.3 | 04.56 4.3 17.50 4.3 |
| St Mary's | 09.04 5.0 21.42 4.7 | 10.10 4.9 22.51 4.7 |

Week ahead

| | |
|--|---|
| monday Bright. Dry. max 4C min -2C | thursday Wintery showers. max 4C min -3C |
| tuesday Wintery showers. max 3C min -2C | friday Dry. Bright. max 4C min -3C |
| wednesday Wintery showers. max 3C min -4C | saturday Dry. Bright. max -3C min 5C |

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County must find another £25m in savings

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

at every one of the hundreds of services it provides, how they are delivered, and what customers expect. He said residents could have to start paying for some services that were previously paid for by the council, but it was too early to say which services would be hit.

"We need to look at things that people value and what things we can cut back on," he said. "The reorganisation of the authority and how we carry out business will also help produce economies. Levels of staffing are already being reduced by us not filling jobs or vacancies."

He stressed that children's social services,

elderly provision and adult social services were a priority for the council. KCC is currently considering whether to close a number of council-run care homes for elderly people.

"The number of referrals after the Baby P case has gone up because people are taking no chances, which puts KCC under tremendous pressure," he said.

"We've also got a rapidly growing adult population. One of the most expensive things we do is elderly assessments to see if they qualify for support and how much they get."

"This is done by the Department for Work and Pensions, but they won't disclose the information to us, so we also have to do the

assessments. If we could work together we could save money here."

Cllr Simmonds said district and borough councils will find the grant reductions "extremely painful" and admitted KCC was luckier due to its large size.

"If we can weather the next few years, hopefully then we'll have smoother waters," he said.

"Locally people are aware of the changes. Communities can help by looking at some of the things we do and help provide this on smaller level. We have considerable voluntary input in Kent."

• To read the autumn budget statement go to www.kent.gov.uk.

Ousted MPs backing 'low profile' Miliband

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LABOUR politicians in Kent have backed Ed Miliband's pledge to make "profound changes" to the party on the scale of the mid-1990s New Labour reforms.

The leader of the Opposition has been criticised by some for being too low profile in his first two months in the job, but this week he announced plans for an overhaul of the party.

Mr Miliband told the Guardian newspaper Labour would review its policies and its organisation – including the rules for electing its leaders – with the aim of turning the party into the "largest community organisation in the country".

Kent has no Labour MPs after all seven – including former Dover representative Gwyn Prosser – lost their seats to Conservative opponents at the General Election in May.

Labour only has two county councillors and does not run a single borough or district council in Kent.

Mr Prosser told KoS a shake-up of the party was necessary for it to get back onto the political map both in Kent and across the UK.

"It was the work Tony Blair did which reshaped the party and made it electable and respectable again," he said. "But as time went by I became unhappy with some policies. We seemed to be moving towards semi-privatisation and didn't give enough support to trade unions and their struggles."

"We need to come back to an agenda of fighting for working people and those on low



OVERHAUL: Labour leader Ed Miliband

incomes, because it is they who are going to bear the brunt of the coalition's swingeing, deep cuts. I supported and voted for Ed Miliband from the very start and I'm delighted he was elected. Opposition parties are not expected to spell out every one of their poli-

cies from the beginning, but I'm looking forward to him giving us a broad feeling of where he wants to take us."

With Labour out of government for the first time in 13 years, Mr Miliband aims to reshape the party in the same way Blair did.

"There's no doubt the swathe of seats we won in 1997 was due to the values of New Labour, which was absolutely right for the time," said former Gillingham and Rainham MP Paul Clark.

"But it's not 1997 any more, so we need to step back and reassess how we should apply our policies in a 21st century setting."

"The term Mr Miliband used was that we have to become much more of a community organisation, and I believe that's absolutely fundamental."

Kent County Council Labour leader Leslie Christie said: "When I look at the opinion polls, Mr Miliband seems to be doing OK, despite the perception he's not doing a lot."

"But that suggests to me a steady hand. He hasn't jumped in and put a slogan on everything and is thinking things through rather than point-scoring."

"It's right that at this stage we should be considering what we want to be fighting for in five years' time."

• **Yesterday Mr Miliband was due to visit Medway to take part in a question-and-answer session with Kent on Sunday readers. It followed his morning speech to the Labour Party's national policy forum, which met at the home of Gillingham FC, Priestfield Stadium.**

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Descendant of Guinness dynasty reveals all

Booze addiction stemmed from heiress's cruel Kent childhood

GUINNESS heiress Ivana Lowell has revealed how her tragic upbringing in Kent set her on the path to a lengthy battle with alcohol addiction.

A direct descendant of Arthur Guinness, the 18th century founder of the iconic Irish brew, 43-year-old Lowell endured aturbulent upbringing at her former home in Bearsted, near Maidstone.

And as she reveals in her new autobiography – *Why Not Say What Happened?* – the aristocrat's early years in the Garden of England were memorable for all the wrong reasons.

"I come from a rather chaotic family and we lived in this rather large house at Milgate Park," Lowell told KoS.

"The parents stayed in one half of the house and the children in the other, but I was molested by my nanny's husband and was also very badly burned when I tripped over a kettle lead while playing in the kitchen one day.

"It was rather traumatic living there because I was scarred inside and out. But I got through it and came out the other side."

Despite such a troubled childhood Lowell says she still has fond memories of her time in Kent, most notably of riding horses through the countryside and of attending Beechwood

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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Sacred Heart School in Tunbridge Wells.

She also enjoyed visiting her grandmother Maureen Guinness – nicknamed one of the 'glorious Guinness girls' – at her Owl House home in Lamberhurst.

However, the death in 1977 of Ivana's father Robert Lowell – whom she later discovered was not her real dad – and subsequent death of her 18-year-old sister Natalya pushed her over the edge and into the world of drink and drugs.

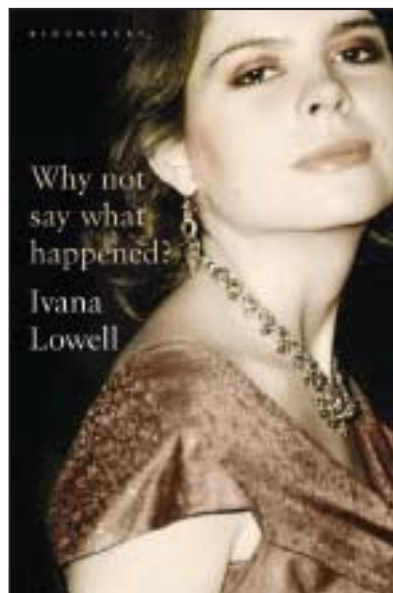
"It was difficult to write about everything, but it was my shrink who encouraged me to do so," said Lowell.

Surviving

"It turned out to be very cathartic for me and it was almost a relief to get everything out there. But it was also an opportunity for me to respond to things that had been written about my mother (the late writer Caroline Blackwood) which I didn't think were accurate or fair.

"I had a good relationship with my mother – if not a flawed one – and I wanted to tell my side of the story. I also wanted to help people because there's a lot in the book about surviving child abuse and alcoholism.

"Sometimes when you're a vic-



TRUTH: Ivana Lowell's new book reveals her turbulent and abusive upbringing in Bearsted

tim you feel like you're on your own, so it's helpful to realise there are other people out there who have been through the same thing."

In addition to being married to Robert Lowell, Ivana's mother had also previously tied the knot with painter Lucian Freud – grandson of the psychiatrist Sigmund Freud – and the composer Israel Citkowitz.

Yet despite the publisher's description of her family as "wild and bohemian", Lowell insists she is happy to be associated with them.

"I have a daughter of my own now and live a much quieter life these days," she said.

"But I love my family and can't imagine being with anyone else. I just wish they were all still around."

• *Why Not Say What Happened?* is available now through Bloomsbury, priced £18.75.

Rapist cab driver

A TAXI driver who raped his drunken passenger has been jailed for seven years.

David Stirrups, 54, from Broadstairs, picked up his victim up at the taxi rank in Harbour Parade, just after midnight on May 8. She had been unwell after drinking a large amount of alcohol and accepted the cabbie's offer to help her into her home. But it was there he raped her before carrying out a further sexual act.

Stirrups was arrested thanks to CCTV footage and the help of fellow taxi drivers.

Stirrups was jailed by Canterbury Crown Court and his name added to the sex offenders' register. A further charge of sexual assault by touching will be left on his file.

Final toll for year

CAMPAIGNERS against toll charge increases at the Dartford crossing held their final demonstration of the year on Friday.

Motorists were asked to Toot if You Give a Hoot at the Government's plan to increase the levy from £1.50 to £2.50 for car drivers by 2012.

Campaign chairman Chris Taylor said: "Our campaign is pushing for the removal of the toll barrier and eventual removal of the toll charge."

• See p15 for more on the Dartford crossing.

To see this clip search 'Thomson' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Watch rehearsals for the Marlowe theatre's Robin Hood pantomime and interviews with the show's stars

Campaign starts to halt cut to school sports cash

SPORTS leaders have launched an attack on the Government for scrapping school sports funding as thousands of campaigners demand ministers rethink the move.

Kent representatives from the Schools Sports Partnerships (SSP) questioned what kind of message was being sent to the international community ahead of the Olympics and World Cup 2018 bid by cutting funding for the SSP programme.

The globally-acclaimed project encourages competitive opportunities within schools and has seen the number of Kent students taking part in sport twice a week soar.

But the national programme has become one of the many casualties of Government's spending cuts, with plans to axe its entire £162 million funding.

Thousands of students and staff at the county's schools have thrown their weight behind a campaign to save the scheme by signing a petition urging ministers to rethink proposals.

It will be handed in to education secretary Michael Gove on Monday, December 6.

Kent has 15 SSPs, which encourage sport by introducing new activities, offering competitive opportunities and creating links

between communities and clubs.

Peter La Rossignol, competition manager for the Mid-Kent, Ashford, Sheppey and Sittingbourne area, who will be made redundant next March unless plans are overturned, said people were shocked and saddened.

"I can't see how the country is expected to win the World Cup bid when competitive sport at grassroots level is cut," he said.

Since the SSP was launched in 2005 the number of pupils taking PE two hours a week increased from 58 per cent to 92 per cent; competition inside schools rose from 46 per cent to 97 per cent and between schools from 25 per cent to 64 per cent.

But sports minister Hugh Robertson, MP for Faversham and Mid-Kent, defended the Government's decision, saying: "I understand that nobody wants to see any money cut from school sport. However, we have to deal with the national economic crisis that we have inherited which is costing the country £120 million in debt interest payments every day.

"No PE teachers have been cut and heads now have control of their budgets. I want sport to be ambitious and make the case to retain sports funding within school's budgets."

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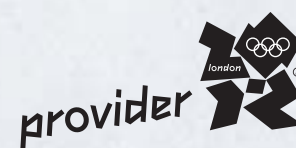
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Children go bonkers for conkers

GURKHA schoolchildren have been getting into the swing of a traditional kids' autumn pastime – conkers.

Pupils of St Mary's Primary School in Ashford, have taken up the age-old game which has been threatened in recent years by health and safety rules in some schools across the UK.

They have even set up competitions and formed their own club – with the Nepalese children among the most enthusiastic players.

The game is played by two players, each

with a conker threaded onto a piece of string – they take turns striking each other's horse-chestnut until one breaks.

A hole is drilled in a large, hard conker using a nail or small screwdriver. A piece of string is threaded through it about 25cm long – traditionally a shoelace was often used. Finally a large knot at one or both ends of the string secures the conker.

Headteacher Sue Parkin said: "In the weeks leading up to half term the games were in full swing, as there were horse-

chestnuts all around to be picked up, attached to a string and ready for a game.

"We have no problem with the children playing conkers at all, unless they start to hit each other with them.

"We have quite a number of pupils from a Nepalese background who come from the families of Gurkha soldiers. They had never seen the game before so they became fascinated and very enthusiastic players."

The first recorded game was on the Isle of Wight in the mid 19th century.

Paul was used as a scapegoat insists wife of sex pest coach

EXCLUSIVE

By JILL HURST

THE wife of the Olympic fencing coach banned from working with children after giving 'special massages' to his female students says she will not divorce him.

Paul Romang, 59, who founded Canterbury Fencing Club and taught across Kent, was sentenced last week after being found guilty of using his position of trust to indecently assault a 16-year-old girl staying at his home.

Joy Romang, 55, his wife of 27 years, said she still believed her husband was the victim of a "stitch-up". At the couple's home in Broadstairs she said her husband had been made "a scapegoat".

This was despite the Judge Adele Williams saying there was "clear and compelling" evidence he had used his position of trust to get sexual favours from his pupils.

Mrs Romang was called to give evidence during the six-day trial at Canterbury Crown Court, which also heard from three of the top coach's former female students, aged from 16-18.

One girl told how he crept into her room while she was staying at his home the night before a tournament. He had offered her a massage, then removed her bra and touched her buttocks.

The scared girl asked him to stop. She told her mother, which resulted in Romang's arrest. The court heard the talented teenager had quit fencing after the incident.

Detectives traced two other former students who gave evidence against Romang and told the jury how he accompanied them on foreign trips where he offered special massages and gifts.

The coach, who had also taught at The Kings School in Canterbury, was found guilty of the single charge which became law in 2000 after concerns about teacher-pupil relationships. He now wears a tag and is banned from working with under-18s.

He was sentenced to a two-year supervision order and put under curfew for three months.

Yet Mrs Romang insists her husband is not the sexual predator he has been made out to be.

Mrs Romang said: "At 59 with a heart problem and on so many drugs he falls asleep most of the time – he isn't interested in anything like that. He just fits the stereotype – middle aged man and young girl. He never stood a chance."

Mrs Romang says she first heard about the allegations on March 20, 2008, when police turned up at the family house where they have lived for 19 years.

"I couldn't believe it. I thought, no it's a joke. It was so surreal. I didn't have time to talk to him. They just took him."



GUILTY: Paul Romang has been given a two-year supervision order

Picture: IMAGES INTERNATIONAL

Mrs Romang says she has gone over and over every detail with her husband.

"We've had the rows, tears and accusations and if I was in any doubt he would be gone. In the cold light of day I'm 100 per cent sure he did not do it."

Mrs Romang said: "We always had people staying in the house – students, coaches, young men and women. There's never been an inkling of anything like this."

The couple now plan to appeal against the sentence and Mr Romang is to undergo a lie detector test.

Mrs Romang added: "He'll never get a job now. No one is going to employ him. He hasn't worked for two years."

Mr Romang now plans to blow the lid on British fencing and is writing a warts-and-all book.

SEX traffickers who forced two Czech women into prostitution have been jailed for a total of 23 years.

Dusan Horvat, 37, from Folkestone; Ivan Gujda, 38, from Chatham; and Martin Brusch, 31, of no fixed abode; lured their victims to the UK under the false pretence of arranging two marriages.

Instead they were forced to have sex for money throughout the course of 17 days last June.

Brusch and Horvat received 10 years each while Gujda was jailed for three years.

A TEACHER whose pupils saw him drunk in public has been disciplined by the General Teaching Council.

John Henry, whose contract at the Community College Whitstable was terminated in June last year, also failed to tell his headteacher of previous motoring convictions.

He was found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct at a disciplinary hearing earlier this month.

Mr Henry must now keep the GTC updated about his drinking issues when applying for any future positions.

To see this clip search 'Jensen' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Johnnie Jensen speaks about the implications for business of the digital revolution

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Kentish Christmas
feature inside Review

KENT ON SATURDAY

KENT ON SUNDAY



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THE INTERVIEW

BY STEVE KNIGHT

Fans show Hart for the Hitman

WRESTLING hero Bret 'Hitman' Hart says his successful visit to Kent has reassured him that his popularity among English fans is not a passing fad.

The Canadian grappler was greeted by hundreds of supporters at a book-signing at Bluewater last week, reminding him of the day in August, 1992, when a Wembley Stadium crowd of more than 80,000 turned out to watch him fight the British Bulldog.

"I'm not quite sure what it was that made me so agreeable to the English fans but we always had a really strong bond," said the 53-year-old veteran.

"I'm always blown away by how many people still come to see me because I think there must be enough people who already have my autograph by now, but I guess there's a new crop of fans being born every year.

"Maybe it's the parents who still remember me, but it's gratifying to know the strong relationship I had with them a long time ago wasn't make-believe."

Known for his pink-and-black ring gear, his trademark 'Sharpshooter' hold and all-round wrestling ability, the Hitman went on to become one of the most popular grapplers in WWE history.

However, his 13-year run with the company ended on a sour note in November, 1997, when, after agreeing to join rival promotion World Championship Wrestling (WCW), he was humiliated and verbally abused on-screen by WWE chairman Vince McMahon.



STAR: Bret in his 1990s heyday, and right, he has Shawn Michaels trapped in the Sharpshooter during their classic Iron Man Match at Wrestlemania XII in March, 1996

Hart's relationship with his former employer deteriorated even further two years later when his younger brother Owen

— who still worked for McMahon at the time — fell 78 feet to his death when an elaborate ring entrance went tragically wrong.

Countless drug-related deaths of many of the ex-champion's friends and the loss of both of his parents also made writing his autobiography — Hitman — that much more painful.

"It was really hard, and I started to write the most difficult chapter not long after I suffered a stroke too," he said. "Surviving it made me look within myself and count my blessings. It humbled me and really knocked the wind out of me.

"I think I wrote a different book at the end because of it, and it caused a lot of raw emotion about all the tragedies and all the friends I've lost to come out."

Hart announced his retirement from in-ring action in late 2000 after receiving a severe concussion in a match with Bill Goldberg, and suffered his stroke two years later.

But since that time he has made a near full recovery, and earlier this year he returned to WWE in a non-wrestling role after finally burying the hatchet with McMahon.

"The whole thing has been a really joyous ride," he said.

"They've been very accommodating to me and have bent over backwards to right the wrongs of the past.

"I feel like an old superhero who's gone up into the attic and thrown my old suit on just one more time, and it's been a lot of fun.

"My most recent booking with the company was in Istanbul two weeks ago, and if that turns out to be the last then



TODAY: Bret Hart is still involved in wrestling

I'd be really happy with how everything worked out.

"But I welcome the next phone call from them. I'm all for it."

• *Hitman: My Real Life in the Cartoon World of Wrestling is available now through Ebury Press, priced £6.99.*



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As commuters get ready for another price hike, MP says:

Southeastern can 'kiss goodbye' to franchise

TRAIN passengers face New Year misery with rail fare increases set to soar by double the national average on some season tickets.

From January, disgruntled commuters on popular routes, such as Ashford and Ramsgate, will have to fork out up to £500 extra for a ticket to London, and almost £600 more on high-speed lines.

Figures from the Association of Train Operating Companies put the UK's average price increase for 2011 at 6.2 per cent, but for Kent the figure is 7.8 per cent on regulated fares.

To make matters worse for our long-suffering commuters, on some routes prices will go up by even more due to a four-year franchise agreement, which is up for renewal in 2012, between Southeastern and Government.

The contract allows the rail company to increase fares by inflation plus three per cent – unlike the national RPI plus one per cent – and as long as that remains the average across the county rail bosses have the flexibility to put prices up by even more on popular routes.

Commuters from Ramsgate and Ashford will see a staggering 12.8 per cent rise in fares.

Charles Horton, managing director of Southeastern, said the increase in Kent would take the financial burden off the taxpayer and put it on the passenger.

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

"Nobody likes to see prices rise, but it is the stated policy of the government to move the cost of travelling by train towards passengers and away from the general taxpayer," he said.

"The amount of taxpayer subsidy we receive from the Government reduces year-on-year and to offset this we need to raise the fares to make up the difference and minimise the burden on taxpayers."

Disgrace

But North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale called the move an absolute disgrace and said Southeastern could "kiss goodbye" to any thought of a franchise renewal.

"For the fourth year running my constituents will be paying more for less," he said.

"Southeastern's 'fast link' is a bad joke so far as commuters are concerned as door-to-door journey times now take longer and cost more. Why should people have to pay to subsidise a service that does not serve their needs?"

"East Kent hosts the highest levels of social deprivation in the South East and some of the highest in the country, and yet while affluent Brighton gets away with a seven per cent increase we find our travellers paying RPI

plus three per cent plus a further six per cent."

From January, 2011, commuters will have to pay £4,376 – £496 more than in 2010 – for a season ticket from Ramsgate to London. Monthly tickets will rise by £47.60 to £420.10.

On the high-speed service from Ramsgate to London passengers will pay an extra £592, taking the annual season ticket price to £5,240.

Passengers at Ashford International will see an increase of £488 to £4,328 for a season ticket on the classic line, or a £584 rise to £5,192 on the high-speed service.

Cllr Nick Chard, Kent County Council cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said: "While we all understand the need for a reasonable fare increase, we have not seen sufficient benefits in terms of reduced overcrowding and better services."

"We are currently preparing a Kent rail action plan to make sure the next rail franchise due to start in 2014 reflects what residents and commuters want."

Last month a report by the Public Accounts Committee revealed problems with overcrowded trains are set to get worse. Particular mention was made to Southeastern, with passengers being forced to pay premium fares to support the high-speed service when it does not stop at every station.

• **See page 25 for Roger Gale's Opinion column on the rail price hike.**

Awards success

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's Your Health magazine has been named Best Magazine at a top awards ceremony.

The 15-month-old title, produced to encourage healthy lifestyles, is published by Archant KOS Media and was announced a regional winner at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Pride Awards to recognise public relations success and achievement.

Written and researched by the communications team, Your Health is a unique publication which focuses on health promotion and disease prevention for 732,000 people in Eastern and Coastal Kent.

The winter edition, out this week, focuses on choosing the right treatments and services during the cold months, plus advice on keeping warm and well.

Your Health can be read at www.kentnews.co.uk or www.yourhealthcheck.nhs.uk.

At the same awards Kent Police Authority won gold awards for Best Newspaper and communication manager, Alison Hammond, picked up Outstanding Young Communicator of the Year. KPA was also runner up for best website and best magazine.

Chandlers' deal

KIDNAPPED couple Paul and Rachel Chandler have sold the story of their ordeal in a deal worth an estimated £500,000.

The couple, who rent out their home in Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, endured 388 days held under armed guard after being snatched from their yacht by Somali pirates.

They were finally freed earlier this month after a ransom of a reported £620,000 was paid.

Now they have signed exclusive media deals. The names of the one national paper and one broadcaster have not yet been revealed.



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The Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) is looking to recruit two representatives who are residents of Kent and members of the local community to become **Lay Members of the Board**.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and this is a great opportunity to help us ensure that all of our agencies are safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across the County.

The KSCB is the statutory mechanism for the safeguarding and protection of children in the County. It sets out how agencies should work together to safeguard children and monitors how well they are doing. The board is made up of senior professionals from partner agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children such as Kent County Council Children Social Services and Adult Services, the police, schools and health agencies. Recent developments in legislation means that we are now required to appoint two local members of the community to the KSCB.

The Board usually meets up to 5 times a year and the role of **Lay Member** would involve:

- attendance at the board meetings
- preparation by reading papers in advance of the meeting
- taking part in discussions and decision-making at the board meeting

You will need to have:

- an understanding of working with children or young people
- an ability to communicate effectively within meetings
- confidence to ask questions and challenge people in a constructive way
- a commitment to promoting equality and diversity and improving the safety of children & young people in Kent.

As a Lay Member you would not be an employed member of staff. Lay Members are appointed for a period of 1 year, reviewable annually. Expenses will be reimbursed to cover travel.

We value equality and diversity and would welcome applications from all those in the community who share our commitment.

If you are interested in becoming a **Lay Member of the Board**, please contact Penny Davies, KSCB Manager on 01622 694856 for an informal discussion or an application form.

The successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced CRB check and suitable references.

Closing date for applications is Friday 31st December



Carter: I didn't know how bad

KENT County Council leader Paul Carter has admitted being unaware of how poorly run the authority's child protection service is.

Last week County Hall's most senior politician was forced to issue an apology after a damning Ofsted report rated the safeguarding and looked-after children services at KCC as "inadequate".

Areas of concern raised after a two-week inspection last month include the management and supervision of services, low educational attainment of looked-after children, high number of cases not receiving quality assessments, and social workers with high case loads.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

And in a candid interview with KoS, Cllr Carter admitted he only now appreciated the full scale of the problem.

"We've got some poor management, which the report highlights," he said.

"The service is under significant pressure, but I think the report highlights issues that are more severe than I would otherwise have been aware of.

"For example, the number of corners that are having to be cut to keep their heads above water and the paperwork that is not being

kept in order or completed as it should be.

"We've got to make sure members of staff are appropriately managed and tasked because there's an element of people being overwhelmed here."

When asked if he could have recognised any of the failings of the service earlier, Cllr Carter replied: "I suppose hindsight is always invaluable, but none of the joint boards we've put together have raised the alarm bells in the way Ofsted recently has.

"Our track record in this area is actually good and six years ago we went into Swindon and helped them turn their social care services around.

"They are now a very good provider so it's sad that the quality of services in our own backyard has slipped."

The social work industry has faced intense scrutiny since the failings that led to the tragic death of 17-month-old Baby P in Haringey, north London, were first made public in November, 2008.

Critical

Cllr Carter admitted the authority had struggled to cope with the increased number of referrals made since that time, which average about 2,000 a month including about 180 a week in Thanet alone.

The county also has the added responsibility of 900 asylum-seeking children as well as about 1,500 looked-after youngsters placed in Kent by other local authorities.

"It puts enormous pressure on all our services," said Cllr Carter.

"We've been lobbying government over the last 12 to 14 years and telling them that enough is enough – other councils must start placing vulnerable young people closer to their parental homes. We've made some progress in this area recently, but the



APOLOGY: Cllr Carter has promised reforms

OFSTED'S FINDINGS

- Low educational attainment of looked-after children
- High number of cases not receiving quality assessments
- High caseloads for social workers
- Inadequate management and supervision of social workers
- Concerns over access to mental health services
- Inappropriate referrals from other agencies
- Insufficient use of early intervention support in the community



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Classroom help

HEADTEACHERS across Kent have been asked for assistance in turning around the fortunes of children's social services in the county.

In a letter circulated after publication of the damning Ofsted report, Rosalind Turner – managing director of Kent County Council's children, families and education department – told heads it was a “very serious judgement”.

She also called on them to help address one of the failings identified by the watchdog, namely the poor educational attainment of looked-after children.

The letter reads: “This is a blow for all of us and we must all work tirelessly now to improve the service, and its reputation, in the interests of the children, young people and families we serve.

“The high exclusions and low attainment of Kent looked-after children is an area I know all school colleagues will be particularly concerned about.

“I am sure you will want to address within your own school and in collaboration with each other and the local authority.”

Mrs Turner added that she wanted to pay tribute to the “tireless” efforts of frontline workers and that she would support them and their managers in the months to come.

“We want Kent to be able to be proud of all the services for children and young people, and I know I can count on your full support to achieve this,” she said.

We're guilty too

HEATH trusts, police and other partner agencies have also taken responsibility for the failings of Kent's child protection services.

In providing social care to young people throughout the county, KCC relies on the support of the Kent Children's Trust, Kent Safeguarding Children Board, NHS West Kent, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, Kent and Medway NHS Trust, and Kent Police.

All of these agencies put their names to a joint statement released upon publication of the Ofsted report, which said there was “no

greater priority” than protecting children.

It read: “We fully accept the findings of the report. Where we have fallen short we offer our sincere apologies.

“All agencies are completely focused on putting right the shortcomings and weaknesses that have been identified.

“We know that actions speak louder than words and we would like to reassure everyone that the areas identified for immediate improvement by Ofsted are already being addressed.”

Poorly report

OFSTED'S annual children's services assessment of Kent County Council is likely to be limited to ‘performs poorly’ at the end of this financial year.

The ‘inadequate’ rating published this week means the authority will struggle to achieve a high grade, as the watchdog's inspector Brendan Parkinson pointed out in a letter to the authority.

But despite the multiple failures identified, Ofsted also found several areas of good practice.

These include fostering services, adoption, leaving care and support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Damaging split

LIB Dem councillors have called on KCC to abandon what they claim is a “damaging” reorganisation of the authority's education department.

Shadow cabinet member for education Cllr Martin Vye said: “KCC has been focused for months on a reorganisation plan which includes splitting children's care services between two departments.

“All the national inquiry reports into children who have died in local authority care point to the need for services to be joined up, not split up.

“The head of children's services is directly responsible to government for child protection, but under Paul Carter's plan that service would be delivered by the head of another department.”

legislation needs to be changed and tightened up to stop this happening.”

Cllr Carter added that it was also proving difficult to attract the best social workers to Kent due to the stigma attached to the profession since the Baby P tragedy.

He said: “We've recruited from overseas – particularly the United States and Canada – but they have particular training needs in order for them to become the top social workers in the system.

“We are dependant on new staff when the preference would be for good experienced staff. That counts enormously, but they're just not around any more.

“It's not regarded as a profession that's popular among graduates even though we've marketed and promoted it as far as possible.

“I don't think some of the critical statements from the national media are helping recruitment into what is a very difficult and challenging job.”

‘Inappropriate’

The Ofsted inspection was carried out just two months after the watchdog warned that children were at risk of harm due to inadequate and late assessments by KCC's social services team.

And earlier this year the authority was forced to issue a public apology when it emerged an inexperienced social worker failed to act on a warning about Tunbridge Wells resident Christopher Sellman, who went on to kill his baby daughter.

The new report also highlights concerns about access to child and adolescent mental health services, a high number of “inappropriate” referrals from other agencies, and insufficient use of early intervention support in the community.

Student demonstrations get support of university tutors

LECTURERS from the University of Kent voiced their support for the second wave of student protests held this week.

Professor of urban studies Phil Hubbard and employment relations expert Dr Samantha Lynch were among 295 scholars who spoke out over planned tuition fee increases in a letter to The Guardian newspaper.

It read: “We support the day of protest on Wednesday following the magnificent demonstration by university and school students and by university staff on November 10.

“We are utterly opposed to the destruction of broad-based, critical education and its replacement by education for the market that is enshrined in the Browne report. We are defending not just our jobs, but the values which

brought us into higher education, reflecting the wider significance of education to society.”

About 10,000 students took part in a series nationwide marches and gatherings, but violence flared in London for the second time in a fortnight resulting in arrests and injury.

Young people are angry that from 2012, universities will be able to charge tuition fees of up to £9,000 a year – almost three times more than the current cap.

The letter continues: “The planned increase in fees means the effective removal of higher education for working people. The coalition has no mandate for its ideologically driven class rule – the anger of students is no surprise.

“We intend to fight them to defend and to protect higher and further education for all.”



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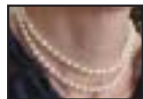
A BURGLAR struck at the home of a woman while she was tending her husband's grave.

The woman, in her 60s and from Folkestone, was out of the house for just 15 minutes at lunchtime on Monday, which gave the thief enough time to get into the garden, smash the French doors and search through the bedrooms for valuables.

The woman disturbed the thief, who ran off with three necklaces of significant sentimental value, when she returned just before 12.30pm.

One is an 18-20in 18ct gold chain given to her on her 21st birthday. The other two are pearl necklaces, one 28in (see picture) and the other a string of cultured pearls about 14in in length. Both are family heirlooms. All are irreplaceable.

Earlier in the day the burglar broke into a neighbour's home and took a haul of jewellery.



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Kent Reliance private equity deal is first of its kind in UK

Savers approve New York merger by narrow margin

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HISTORY was made when Kent Reliance Building Society members voted to breathe new life into the business with of a £50 million cash injection.

The deal with New York financier JC Flowers was approved at the society's annual meeting on Friday, November 19, and is the first private equity investment in the UK mutual banking sector.

At least 75 per cent of members had to vote in favour of the motion for it to be passed, and it scraped through with 75.8 per cent of the ballot.

The Chatham-based society will now transfer all of its business, assets and liabilities to a new bank called OneSavings, which is expected to become effective on February 1.

News that the investment had been approved came as a disappointment to life-long KRBS member Andy James, 40, from Rainham, whose campaign to vote against the move failed.

He said: "It was very close and to get the percentage of 'no' votes that we did shows how many people are concerned about the deal.

"Going forward, the majority of KRBS will be owned by JC Flowers and not by the members of the building society, and when that happens the deal the members will be getting will be much worse.

"Potentially the saving rates will be affected because the profits will be reinvested into the organisation and its shareholders rather than on behalf of the members."

In the seven months up to April 30 this year the society made a loss of £4.7m and said it was not making money from its exist-

more than 90 per cent, the mutual ethos of running the business for the benefit of its members will continue.

But campaigner Mr James said he would be keeping a close eye on the situation.

"I'll certainly stay where I am for the moment," he said. "But if it gets to the point where KRBS owns less than 10 or 20 per cent of the new organisation then I don't see the point of carrying on because I don't see that as remaining mutual."

With assets of more than £2.2 billion, KRBS is the 12th largest building society in the UK and has served the people of the county for more than 150 years.

It is currently the main sponsor of League One football team Charlton Athletic and Ryman Division One South side Whitstable Town, and until this season its name was also on the shirts of League Two club Gillingham.

JC Flowers managing director David Morgan said: "We look forward to joining forces with KRBS."

"The injection of new capital will make the business stronger and able to take advantage of opportunities as they arise."

Kent Reliance is the only building society based in Kent, having incorporated the Chatham Reliance, Dover District, Herne Bay and Kent and Canterbury building societies that were all founded in the mid-to-late-19th century.



ing mortgages because of the low interest rate environment.

The aim now is for OneSavings to be listed on the Stock Market in the next five-10 years, possibly after incorporating other societies.

JC Flowers will own 40.1 per cent of the new business and KRBS 59.9 per cent, but it is expected that Flowers – owned by New Yorker Christopher Flowers – will eventually take majority control.

KRBS chief executive Mike Lazenby has reassured members that until Flowers owns



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Bitterns wing in

BITTERNS are arriving at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve from the Continental as cold weather forces them to migrate to sites where they can find winter food.

The site offers reedbeds and a supply of fish for the birds to feed on. Sightings are being made most days at Denge Marsh and the Hanson-ARC pit.

Bob Gomes, RSPB site manager, said: "Bitterns are very secretive so can be hard to spot. We know we have at least three at the moment and as the weather turns colder expect to see more."

Between 1967 and 2002 only one or two bitterns were seen each winter, but since 2002 numbers increased to three or more.

In January, 2009, eight were seen. This summer recorded the first confirmed breeding, after a female exhibited typical feeding behaviour, indicating chicks in the nest.

Sikhs' stunning gurdwara

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A GIANT new place of worship for the Sikh community of north Kent has officially opened its doors.

The new gurdwara dominates the Gravesend skyline and is believed to be one of the largest in the UK. Covered in marble, the Guru Nanak Marg Gurdwara, in Saddington Street, has taken eight years and £12 million to complete. The money was raised by the community.

It can accommodate 1,200 worshippers in its three huge halls. Sikhs held a parade through the town for the moving of the Guru Granth Sahib –



OPEN: Gurdwara dominates the skyline

the holy scripture of Sikhism – from their old place of worship in Clarence Place to the new site. The importance of the move was marked by a continuous 48-hour reading of the Guru Granth Sahib.

And on the 541st birthday of the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Sahib Ji, a service was held at the gurdwara, as a new Sikh flag was raised outside. A £1.5m extension including a lecture theatre, library, offices and crèche is scheduled to be completed by April.

Swaran Singh, the president of the gurdwara management committee, said: "It is a beautiful building and important to the community. We do need a building this big. When you first buy a place, you wait a while, then get a bigger and better place as you grow."

"This is our God house and a God house must be better than other houses. So we want to make sure the community can look at this gurdwara and know it is the best."

"It is not only for Sikhs – it is multi-cultural. We are a multi-cultural society, so this is for everyone."

The trio of worship halls and main lobby are all topped with domes that are lined



MARBLE HALLS: Above, inside the new gurdwara; LEFT: Sikhs move soul to new building

with colourful glass mosaics. The largest dome above the main hall is 18m in diameter. The building is clad in marble and granite shipped in from India. In recent weeks, finishing touches have included linings for the water features and fountains in front of the building.

It is a long way from the Sikh community's first place of worship in Gravesend – a house in Edwin Street during the 1960s.

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THE South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust has offered advice to help people stay healthy this winter as the weather gets colder.

Tips include wearing a few thin layers as they will keep you warmer than one or two thick layers. Also, stock up your medicine cabinet with items such as cold remedies, painkillers, indigestion tablets, diarrhoea or constipation remedies and plasters.

If you take regular or prescription medications, make sure you have a large enough supply to keep you going over Christmas – and remember to keep taking them. And make sure you know the phone number for your local out-of-hours doctor and dentist.

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Rantzen backs new centre for bullied children

ANTI-BULLYING campaigner Esther Rantzen has lent her backing to the setting up of a new school for victims in Kent, *writes Steve Knight*.

The former That's Life! presenter and ChildLine founder is also a patron of the Red Balloon charity which runs a number of learning centres for children who have suffered from severe physical and psychological abuse.

Plans for such a centre are now being pursued in Ashford, and Rantzen told KoS it could make a huge difference to young people's lives.

She said: "When I met (Red Balloon founder) Dr Carrie Herbert and learned what her charity was doing it was a massive load off my back.

"It had been of huge concern to me as to how severely bullied children were going to get a proper education.

Disgusting

"It's a long process of name-calling, beatings and exclusion that force young people to want to take their own lives, which is a stage that half of Red Balloon's kids have reached. They had all found themselves in a situation where they dare not go to school and were even too petrified to go down the street because they feared they would get beaten or taunted if they did.

"Red Balloon centres are all about rebuilding young people's academic attainment as well as the expectation they will be greeted when they walk into a room rather than be called a name."



SUPPORT: Esther Rantzen

Red Balloon learning centres cater for groups of about 15 and have a success rate of more than 95 per cent in terms of getting young people back into mainstream education or employment.

Rantzen said several former recipients of the service had gone on to earn first-class degrees and respected positions in society throughout its 15-year existence.

This past week was Anti-Bullying Week, but the occasion was marred by an ongoing public hate campaign against X Factor contestant Katie Waissel.

The 24-year-old Londoner has now been afforded round-the-clock protection following a series of death threats on social networking websites like Facebook.

Rantzen, 70, told KoS she was sickened by the bullying, adding: "Someone once told me that chimpanzees and humans are the only animals that hunt and kill members of their own species.

"There's something horrible inside us; it's about power and control and it's disgusting.

"I can't see why anyone would want to bully Katie, but I suppose it's because she's vulnerable, and unfortunately vulnerable people attract the cruellest in society."

Visit www.redballoonlearner.co.uk for more information.

Council used wrong White Cliffs picture on website to save money

FOR years they have stood as a symbol of Britain, the gateway to England and the sweet sight of home for soldiers during the two world wars.

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For instead of using a picture of the famous cliffs on its website, Dover Town Council uploaded a photo of the Seven Sisters in neighbouring Sussex in a bid to save on copyright costs.

Town clerk Mike Webb, who admitted the

pseudo-white cliffs of Dover picture had been on the site for three years, said it was simply a case of cutting back on spending.

"The web designers were asked to provide a photo of 'white cliffs', which they did," he said.

"Part of their remit was to keep costs to a minimum therefore nothing with a copyright was used. This caused its own problems, since it was hard to find a copyright-free photo taken with a professional camera."

Mr Webb is now calling on the public to submit their own pictures for the council to use instead at www.dovertown.co.uk.

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Inset picture: Charles Dickens Museum

COMPREHENSIVE: Among the memorabilia are books collected by Percy Fitzgerald, inset

Rare Dickens collection to go on public display

A PRICELESS collection of books by Charles Dickens is being opened to the public for the first time in almost 100 years to coincide with a new exhibition exploring his Kent connections, *writes Marijke Cox.*

The series of works, called the Fitzgerald Collection, includes books relating to the Victorian author and is one of the world's most comprehensive records of his work.

The compilation is named after Percy Fitzgerald, an author and critic and close friend of Dickens, who was the first president of The Dickens Fellowship.

It includes all of Dickens' major novels, plus many of his minor works, first editions, translations, photographs of the author, and a scrapbook with Victorian picture cards.

Fitzgerald donated the collection of memorabilia to Eastgate House Museum in Rochester in 1912, where it was displayed and then put into storage before being moved to

the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre. From December 8, the books, which are kept in Fitzgerald's original bookcases, will be available to see on request.

Items from the collection can be viewed at the archive centre in the Clock Tower building at the former Civic Centre car park in Strood, by booking a table in advance.


A Dickensian day is being held to mark the collection launch on Wednesday, December 8, which will include talks and a play.

As part of the celebrations an exhibition is being held at the archive centre between December 2 and January 11, looking at Medway places that are linked to Dickens, comparing the Victorian and modern day locations.

Tickets for the book launch on December 8 are free in the morning.


Afternoon admission is £8, when a talk and play will be held and half the proceeds will be donated to the £100,000 appeal to restore the Dickens Swiss chalet at Eastgate House, where the author wrote Great Expectations.

For more information about the event call the centre on 01634 332714.



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Tolls are here to stay (but congestion-inducing barriers might finally be on the way out)

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DARTFORD crossing toll charges will remain "for the foreseeable future" after the Government admitted it cannot do without the £17 million annual income they provide.

Last month it was announced the cost of using the crossing may rise to £2.50 for car drivers by 2012, despite motorists being promised the levy would be scrapped once the cost of building the QEII Bridge was met.

But during a Commons debate on congestion at the crossing this week, transport minister Mike Penning said the removal of the tolls was not an option.

He said: "We are in really difficult economic times, and the £17m-a-year gross revenue the tolls take in is an important part of the money available for the infrastructure and transport network for the whole country."

But Mr Penning did reiterate the



Government's commitment to reduce congestion and pollution at the crossing by removing the barriers and looking into the possible construction of a third Thames crossing.

He said that most businesses would rather pay an extra 50p if it meant their drivers were no longer caught in huge tailbacks.

"The toll booths are what is really holding up the traffic," he added.

"The delays are being caused by people trying to find change, not realising they have to pay, or losing their DART-Tag."

"If we remove the toll booths altogether so people can drive across the bridge or through the tunnels, that delay will be removed."

"The London congestion

charge uses vehicle number plate recognition, and it works well. We intend to use that technology to remove the barriers at the north and south of the crossing."

Last Tuesday's debate was secured by Dartford Tory MP Gareth Johnson, who said: "We have recently had an announcement that the price of the tolls should be increased."

"I cannot accept that extra levy on the motorist, who is feeling fairly beleaguered in this particular part of the country."

"The congestion at the Dartford crossing has united Dartford against the current toll booths system. Local people despise the impact it has had on the area, as we have had nothing but misery, congestion and pollution as a result."

Meanwhile, the transport minister revealed during the debate that it was unlikely the DART-Tag residents' discount scheme would be extended to areas outside of Dartford.

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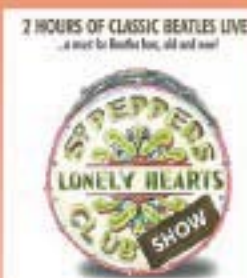
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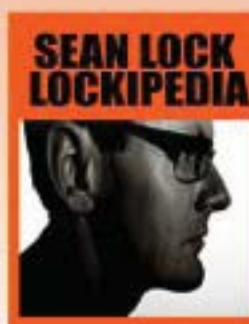
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Iraq hero to sell Military Cross

Soldier auctions gongs at Sotheby's to give young daughter a better life

A WAR hero is selling the Military Cross handed to him by the Queen to help pay for his life in Civvy Street as the parent of a young daughter, **writes Chris Murphy**

The Folkestone soldier, who laid his life on the line in the heat of a Basra battle to protect his platoon from enemy fire, has been told he could expect it to fetch up to £22,000.

Ryan Copping served with the 1st Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

He said the money will help him bring up five-year-old Faith and allow her to "have a happier life".

The 25-year-old is now working in the security business and said he needs the cash from the medal sale, which is being held at Sotheby's in London on Tuesday, November 30.

Private Copping was just 21 when he was driving the lead Warrior armoured vehicle in an operation in the heart of Basra at the height of the state of emergency in 2006.

They came under intense small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire from a notorious area known as the Shia flats.

With the crew struggling to identify both the enemy and the route to take to push onto the objective, Private Copping opened his driver's hatch, stuck his head out and began steering his vehicle through streets strewn with obstacles while talking his gunner onto target after target.

The official citation reads: "Private Copping has demonstrated a near complete disregard for his own safety in order to do what he believed to be the act needed to ensure the vehicle, platoon and operation did not become bogged down."

On the decision to sell the Military Cross along with his Iraq Theatre of War medal, he said: "I don't look at them and see pound notes, but if I don't sell them, they will pass down through my family and some day, somebody else will."

"So I thought I may as well benefit from them. I have a daughter from a previous relationship to look after and bills to pay and I just want us to have a happier life."

Ryan left school at 16 and worked in a hairdressing salon in Folkestone before signing up for the Prince of Wales's Royal Regiment at 18.

He was posted to Germany in 2005 where he underwent training to deploy to Iraq, arriving there in March, 2006.

CASH FOR MEDALS: Ryan Copping, pictured receiving his medals from the Queen, is selling his Military Cross and Iraq Theatre of War medal so he can improve life for his young daughter



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High-speed rail for county town?

MAIDSTONE could be on track for a high-speed rail service next year linking the town to London.

Southeastern staff working on the service have revealed the proposal, which they say is in response to public demand.

But there is no official confirmation of the plans from the rail operator.

It is believed the new service could come into effect in May, when timetables are to be changed.

The train would most likely run from Maidstone West Station to Strood, where it would join the north Kent line and carry on to Ebbsfleet and Stratford before terminating at London's St Pancras.

Southeastern trains admitted the high-speed Javelin service can run on any line and said the network's timetable will be modified in May.

letters to Santa...



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THIEVES left a school with a huge repair bill after ripping lead flashing from a classroom roof. The crooks struck at Burham Primary on Monday, November 15, taking lead worth hundreds of pounds.

Thieves also targeted the Medway school between Friday and Sunday, November 12-14. There have been three other incidents since October 22. Headteacher Michelle Grima said: "The thefts have caused a lot of damage. Whoever did this has no regard for the children or their education."

Sgt Kris Eberlein of the neighbourhood policing team said: "The price of scrap metal makes lead very attractive for thieves."

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Strategy targets high domestic abuse rates

THE staggering number of cases of domestic violence has led to the launch of a new strategy reaching out to victims of abuse.

Since 2006, more than 20,000 incidents have been reported in Kent and Medway every year, with £317 million a year spent on dealing with the effects. The plan brings together various organisations in a bid to drive down the high number of cases and better protect victims.

It was drawn up by the Kent and

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group, made up of representatives from police, criminal justice, local government agencies and support groups, to maximise resources and provide victims with efficient and effective services.

At the heart of the new policy is a commitment from the various agencies to work together more closely and integrate the work they do for victims.

Support

At the moment they each have their own teams working on domestic violence, leading to some doubling up of services.

Christine Missen, Crown Prosecution Services' domestic violence co-ordinator for Kent, said agencies working together would mean help for a victim from beginning to end.

"We need to make people much more aware of the support available," she said.

"We needed a new approach. Victims need help and advice at the start, during and after the prosecution. Through this we can offer support every step of the way, such as refuge and protection."



VICTIM: Authorities promise to help

'I was pregnant and he hit me'

A VICTIM has opened up about the disturbing abuse she suffered at the hands of her partner.

Christine (named changed) lived in the Oasis Domestic Abuse Service's refuge in east Kent for eight months with her son after being subjected to the violent assaults.

"I noticed his behaviour became controlling when I was pregnant, but I put it down to him being protective of me and the baby," she said.

"The first time he assaulted me was when he found me asleep on the sofa. He pulled me up by my hair and when I explained the pregnancy was making me tired, he hit me. After that it was if I couldn't do anything right."

Her mobile was confiscated and contact with her family broke down.

"He told me if I spoke to anyone else he would get a knife and cut the baby out of my stomach. I was hysterical, begging him to stop and at

Kent County Council's head of community safety Stuart Beaumont, who chairs the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group, said the new plan laid out a simple, but clear focus on the ambitions of organisations working to reduce domestic abuse and support victims, the majority of whom are women.

"The immediate challenge continues to be how to sustain, develop and improve those services that are working within the domestic abuse field," he said. "The long-term aim is to reduce the number of people affected by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway."

Eight specialist domestic abuse units are used within Kent Police and more than 2,000 officers and staff have received training in the use of a national risk identification checklist called DASH - Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence - to help identify a victim.

Independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) are also used in Kent to act as a bridge between victims and the various agencies needed during a domestic violence case. Read the strategy on the Kent Criminal Justice Board website at www.cjsonline.gov.uk/kent.

For victim help call Kent Police's domestic violence officers on 01622 690690 for general enquiries, or 999 in an emergency. The National Domestic Violence Helpline is 0808 2000247.

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PERPETRATORS of domestic abuse are being given the chance to change their behaviour and turn their lives around.

A 27-week programme, commissioned by Kent Probation, is being run by the St Giles Trust charity in Tonbridge, Folkestone and Medway, encouraging men to come forward and recognise the impact of their violence.

In the past six months, the self-referral scheme

has helped more than 50 men and a further 48 partners and 96 children have benefitted.

Successful businessman David was one of those helped by the programme.

Earlier this year he struck his partner for the first time and realised he needed to get help.

"Although it was the first time I had ever gone to hit her, I had been verbally abusive in the past," he said.

"It came from my father. He was the kind of man that kept a big stick behind the Aga.

"I was brought up to believe the man rules and the woman does as she is told.

"The programme helped me actually realise I was wrong. It was like switching on a light in a dark room.

"The course is life-changing. It re-educated me and made me deal with things differently."

Asked whether his relationship survived the problems, he told KoS: "My partner is now my wife. We got married."

He added: "I would encourage others to attend the programme. It doesn't suit everyone and you need to want to change, but at the end of the day if you put a lot into it you get a lot out."

For referrals or advice call 07933 359210 or email cdap@stgilestrust.org.



Ensuring swift justice is done

A THIRD specialist domestic violence court could be opened to tackle the high number of abuse cases.

The county already has two, based in Maidstone and Thanet, but the Kent Criminal Justice Board is working with other agencies with the aim of opening a third in Medway next year.

Magistrates, prosecutors and legal advisors at these courts have all undergone specialist training in domestic abuse issues.

Plans for a third facility are a result of the high number of prosecutions seen in the county through the specialist courts.

Six months before the Maidstone court was opened in July, 2007, a total of 14 perpetrators were brought to justice – in any six month period now the figure is more than 150.

The Thanet court, since opening in July, is seeing an average of 23 cases a month with a 43 per cent increase in the number of successful convictions – from 14 to 20.

If a Medway court was to open it is estimated the facilities would manage 1,100 domestic violence cases a year.

Deputy Chief Constable of Kent, Adrian Leppard, pictured, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said: "Bringing more perpetrators to justice is one of our key targets and providing a safe, supportive and secure environment for victims and witnesses is an essential element of this."

Victims are able to give evidence by video link or from behind a screen with support available before, throughout and after the legal process.

Peter Cockrill, a senior crown prosecutor and one of four domestic violence champions in Kent, said: "Victims are looking for speedy justice, speedy is effective when it comes to domestic violence."



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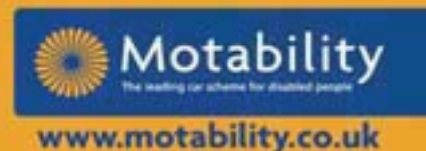
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Bereaved partner wants crash justice



FLOWERS: Sheila Bright at the accident site

THE heartbroken partner of a man killed in a crash believed to have been caused by youngsters throwing stones has called for justice to be done, *writes Marijke Cox.*

Sheila Bright pleaded for whoever was responsible to come forward when she this week visited the scene where her partner Michael Baker died on July 24. The 47-year-old painter and decorator had been travelling as a passenger in a recovery pick-up truck when it collided with a lorry which had been forced to stop suddenly.

It is believed the lorry driver had been trying to pull over on the A20 near the Swanley interchange after something hit his windscreen. Kent Police said a group of young people was seen at the side of the road, which can be accessed through an underpass next to a housing estate. Ms Bright, 43, who had been in a relationship with Mr Baker for three-and-a-half years, said those responsible had ripped a family apart.

"They know they've done it, their parents know they've done it, but they don't care that Mike's chil-



TOGETHER: Sheila with Mike Baker

dren now have no dad or his grandchildren have no grandad," she said. "They knew they were doing something wrong. They've killed him and all I have left is a box of ashes. It's time for them to come forward and tell the truth. I need justice for Mike."

Mr Baker, who had four children, two stepchildren and eight grandchildren – two of whom he never got to see – had been in a truck towing Ms Bright's car after an earlier crash on the M25.

Ms Bright said: "Let those responsible come and stay with us for a day and see what they've done to us. I can't believe they're getting away with it, but I've got to be strong."

Ms Bright, who lives in Rustington, West Sussex, admitted that if it wasn't for her children and grandchild she might not be here. "I feel I have

nothing to live for," she said. The emotional visit to site of the fatal crash had been "hell", she added. "Knowing that's where Mike got killed. Knowing the kids that did it are close to here – I can't stand it."


Mr Baker, who lived in Littlehampton, West Sussex, was described by Ms Bright as an avid teardrinker who made everyone laugh. She added: "He would help anyone at the drop of a hat."

Four children aged between 10 and 15 were arrested in connection with the fatal accident in July. They were questioned on suspicion of manslaughter after reports of stones being thrown from the side of the road.

But Kent Police said last week they will not face prosecution. Chief Insp Adrian Futers said: "We are not able to charge anyone in connection with this incident and the young people have been released."

"The investigation is not closed, but we need people to come forward and tell us what happened so we can explain to Mr Baker's family how and why he died."

Contact Kent Police on 01622 690690 or Crimestoppers on 0800 111555 if you can help.



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Minister's birth plan

HEALTH secretary Andrew Lansley talked to GPs from Kent this week about proposed changes to women's and children's services.

The minister was at Maidstone Hospital to meet doctors and discuss the implications of maternity and other services being moved to the new Pembury Hospital next year.

The services provided by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust will be split between its three hospitals – Kent and Sussex in Tunbridge Wells, which will eventually close, Pembury and Maidstone.

Health bosses say this will allow centres of excellence to be created, but campaigners have protested about the distance expectant mothers will have to travel from Maidstone to get to Pembury to get birth.

Andre's castle date


CHART-TOPPING singer Peter Andre is the first act to be announced for next summer's Castle Concerts in Rochester.

The Australia-born pop star, pictured right, will perform on Thursday, July 14.

Medway Council's Cllr Howard Doe said: "It's exciting that such a popular star has agreed to perform and tickets are expected to sell out fast. Here's a great opportunity to give someone a really special Christmas gift."

The headline act for the opening concert on Wednesday, July 13, will be announced in the New Year, along with the names for Friday and Saturday, July 15 and 16. Tickets, priced £32.50, will go on sale at 10am on Wednesday.





FULSTON MANOR goes FUL-TASH!!








One man every hour dies from prostate cancer in the UK.

The staff and students from Fulston Manor School, Sittingbourne, are playing their part in supporting this very important cause. Those that can, are growing a moustache for the whole month of November.

They are hoping to raise over £500 from activities in school and donations on-line.

The charity is the Movember Foundation in support of The Prostate Cancer Charity, both of whom have been responsible for raising the profile of this fatal men's health issue.

For more information or to make a donation visit uk.movember.com/donate and search for "FulTash Manor School".



The Race to Infinity

BT are calling on communities to compete in a unique "race" for super-fast broadband

Who will be among the first in the UK to receive super-fast broadband, asks Anthony Harrington. According to BT, it could be you

COMMUNITIES across the UK are in a race to ensure that they get as high as possible up the league table of exchanges, helping to influence BT's roll-out plans for super-fast broadband.

BT is committed to bringing fibre broadband to at least two-thirds of the UK by 2015.

By the end of 2010 some four million premises in the UK will have been connected to high-speed fibre, leaving a further 12 million premises, including homes and businesses, to be reached by BT's target date of 2015.

Called "The Race to Infinity", the competition reflects BT's view that the fairest way to help plan the roll-out of the company's high-speed fibre optic broadband across the UK is to throw the decision process open to a competition among all the region's towns and communities.

"The fairest way is to throw the decision process open among all citizens"

This gives communities the chance to demonstrate their enthusiasm and commitment to high-speed broadband.

All they have to do is to get as many of their citizens and businesses as possible to "vote" for BT Infinity for their area.

BT is asking individuals to go online at www.bt.com/racetoinfinity and vote for high-speed broadband – they will also be able to see how their exchange is doing.

The race runs until 31 December 2010 and the results will offer BT a better idea of just how much demand there is

for fibre broadband in any given area.

What gives some real zing and sizzle to the whole competition is that BT Retail has earmarked additional funding to help convert to fibre the five exchanges in areas that top the race*.

The idea is to enable these exchanges by early 2012, at the latest, and possibly sooner.

The company has also pledged to

engage positively with any community that can demonstrate a high level of demand for fibre broadband by getting 75 per cent of their community to vote, so that all avenues for bringing fibre to those areas can be explored.

*** On a percentage-of-premises-served-basis, after passing a threshold of 1,000 votes (one per address)**

To have your say and vote for high-speed broadband in your local community, log on to www.bt.com/racetoinfinity

LIFE IN THE DEDICATED BROAD BAND FAST LANE

BRENDAN DICK, managing director, BT Regions, comments: "We are very keen to get people to realise that fibre broadband gives you the internet as you have never seen it before."

As online services advance and evolve, BT's fibre broadband will really make a difference in homes where competition is hotting up for internet access.

BT Infinity will have a real, positive impact on that experience.

"We are also urging businesses to come along and see how fibre-based broadband can deliver increases in productivity."

"BT Total Broadband Fibre gives businesses a dedicated broadband 'fast lane'."

"This allows them to run applications simultaneously, download e-mails and ftp files alongside voice-over-IP (VoIP), cloud computing and HD video conferencing."

"Home working is also better supported, allowing people to stay in touch regardless of adverse weather or traffic jams!" he concludes.



Many bands make life work better

THE REASON for all the excitement about BT Infinity fibre-optic-based broadband comes down to speed, convenience and flexibility, all of which adds up to a total transformation in time spent online for families and businesses.

BT Infinity offers connection speeds of up to 40Mb per second, with up to 10Mb upload speeds for its premier package and up to 2Mb upload speeds for its standard package.

This technology is future-proofed, putting the UK on a development path that leads to superfast broadband.

As it stands, an up to 40Mb connection gives users the ability to download music files in a second or two instead of in tens

of seconds or minutes. High-definition movies can be downloaded fast enough to make broadband delivery of film slick and effective for every family.

For example, Phillipa Brewin has had BT Infinity since the end of September. A long-standing BT customer, she says the internet has long been a family essential.

Phillipa, a contract worker in procurement for local government agencies, with a nine-year-old daughter and husband, says that during the day the family's home computer in the kitchen is on permanently.

She uses the

internet to watch TV, listen to the radio, shop and research money-saving deals. With the switch to fibre, Phillipa says that the service is now much more capable of delivering high quality, even at times of peak family use.

With BT Infinity, Phillipa can watch TV re-runs and documentaries on BBC iPlayer or upload video to YouTube while her husband and daughter are both online.

"Having BT Infinity has meant we're not only experiencing faster speeds but a more consistent service, even at the busiest times when we're all online," she says.



WIN! A magical Christmas experience at Hever Castle

THIS December, visitors to Hever Castle are invited to step through the wardrobe and join Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy in the magical world of Narnia.

The castle will be sumptuously decorated with sparkling lights and welcoming log fires, and as dusk falls the gardens will be transformed into an illuminated winter wonderland with brightly coloured up-lighting and thousands of twinkling fairy lights sprinkled throughout the trees.

Families can add an extra touch of magic to their day out with a visit to the enchanting snow covered grotto and then make their way through the winter wonderland gardens to Father Christmas' drop-in toy shop.



Father Christmas will also make surprise appearances in the grounds throughout the day and William the miniature donkey will be returning to his stable at weekends.

Visitors can savour the taste of Christmas in the festively decorated

Moat Restaurant, where the chef will be offering seasonal hot meals, mince pies, gingerbread, and traditional Christmas lunches.

One lucky KoS reader will win a special Christmas package offering a magical experience for their



The childhood home of Anne Boleyn

family. The package includes a family ticket (two adults and two children), two drop-in visits with Father Christmas in his toy shop, two donkey rides for children and £40 voucher towards food and drink in the Moat Restaurant.

We also have four family tickets to give away to runners-up.

To enter, answer the question below and send your entry on a post-card along with your email address

(if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to: Hever Castle Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Closing date is Friday, December 12, 2010.

Question: What is the name of the miniature donkey returning to Hever Castle this Christmas?

No purchase necessary.

For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Hever Castle will be open Wednesdays-Sundays, December 1-19, and daily December 21 to January 2 (not December 25 or 26).

Please check www.hevercastle.co.uk for opening times and further information.

Know your Facebook friends, warns blogger

FACEBOOK fanatics are warned they risk being dragged into criminal investigations if they add too many unknown people as friends.

Many users compete to build up as many online acquaintances as they can on the social networking website, even if they have never met the people they are adding.

But this, says 22-year-old University of Kent student Zack Whittaker, increases the chances of them being associated with terrorists or gang members and opens them up to intelligence gathering.

Zack writes for the hugely popular ZDNet technology website but says despite his blogs winning him an army of admirers in the States, he still only has about 200 Facebook friends.

"The more friends you have on Facebook, the more likely it is that you're adding people you don't really know," he said. "The chances are then higher that some of these people will be involved in activity that's not lawful."

"I'm careful not to expose my personal life too much due to the num-

ber of readers I have in the States, but because I know every single one of my Facebook friends I can vouch for every single of them. The same can't be said for people who have 1,500 or more."

Zack - who suffers from Tourette Syndrome and admits to involuntarily shouting "bomb" when travelling by train - is currently studying for a degree in criminology and social policy.

He is one of the supporters of National Unfriend Day, which was launched by American talk show

host Jimmy Kimmel and held on Wednesday.

"Government agencies like the FBI are not necessarily interested in the conversations people have on Facebook, but more the contacts people make," said Zack.

"If somebody has 1,500 friends and two of them are nasty characters, they could find themselves dragged into something sinister which they actually know nothing about."

Read Zack's blog at www.zdnet.com/blog/igeneration.



BLOGGER? Student Zack Whittaker can vouch for all his Facebook friends



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Notice under Paragraph 7 of Schedule 17 to the Building Societies Act 1986 (as modified by the Mutual Societies (Transfers) Orders 2009 made under Section 3 of the Building Societies (Funding) and Mutual Societies (Transfers) Act 2007).

Notice is hereby given that Kent Reliance Building Society, registered number 206038, whose principal office is at Reliance House, Sun Pier, Chatham, Kent ME4 4ET, desires to transfer its business to OneSavings Plc and that the Society has applied to the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to confirm the transfer.

Any interested party may make written representations to the FSA and/or give notice of intention to make oral representations to the FSA with respect to the application. Written representations or notices of a person's intention to make oral representations at a hearing should be received by The Financial Services Authority, Kent Reliance Building Society Representations, Kent Reliance Team, 11th Floor, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS, marked 'Kent Reliance Building Society Representations' or by e-mail to krbsrepresentations@fsa.gov.uk on or before 15 December 2010. If notice is given of oral representations these will be heard by the FSA at a meeting expected to be held on 6 January 2011, at a time and place to be determined by the FSA.

krbs
.com
kent reliance building society

LETTERS

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Cameron got Young wrong

Lord Young had to go. It's not so much that he was 'insensitive' in claiming that we "have never had it so good". A former minister in the Thatcher government is unlikely to be worried about being insensitive.

No, the real problem was that he was an adviser on enterprise to David Cameron and even Cameron was obliged to describe his thinking as "inaccurate".

And Cameron was obliged to dismiss Lord Young's opinion as "inaccurate" because if he hadn't done so the whole reason for the current Government's slash-and-burn approach to the public services would have been destroyed.

The excuse for the savagery of the coalition's cuts is that they are necessary because we are in a recession and we need to control spending. But if Cameron's 'enterprise tsar' reckons that it's only a "so-called recession" then the savage cuts are unnecessary.

The truth is revealed. The level and intensity of the cuts are the product of Conservative and Lib-Dem dogma rather than economic forethought. And, of course, Cameron's judgement in appointing him in the first place is shown, again, to be at fault.

Mike Eddy, Labour district councillor for Mill Hill

Democracy just for politicians

After such a faux pas it was inevitable that Lord Young would be exiting stage right.

With shareholdings in 13 companies, including his own, it's obvious he would find it difficult to relate to pensioners who have saved for their retirement to now find the interest rates he finds so beneficial, mean they have to eat into their savings to live.

For millions of 'ordinary' people this highlights three major problems with our political system. The first being that most politicians live different lives to us and are unable to relate to the person in the street.

Secondly, the lack of continuity as politicians continually move the goalposts to wrong-foot the electorate, so we are unable to successfully plan for the future.

Thirdly, the lack of democracy and accountability, as politicians do exactly as they like contrary to the wishes and good of the electorate.

One excellent example are the very unpopular wars being fought abroad, helping to bring this country to its knees financially and not wanted by the electorate.

The more you examine government policy the more you realise how so much of it is contrary to what we all want, works against what is good for this country and is the reason we are in such a mess.

Policy is not made according to what you and I want, but as to what suits people like Lord Young.

Politicians try to create the illusion of democracy, but we just keep changing one bunch of idiot dictators for another.

Phil Granger, West Malling

OPINION: LINK IS HIGH-SPEED ROBBERY

One year from the launch of the much-heralded high-speed rail link, North Thanet Tory MP **ROGER GALE** can see little for many commuters to shout about

It was launched with a fanfare of trumpets and it promised the dawn of a new age of rail travel in the South East. Its roots go all the way back to the Channel Tunnel Bill and the promise that even those of us who live in east Kent "behind the tunnel door" would enjoy the benefits of the rail link on our domestic services. What a let down.

One year on the much-vaunted High Speed 1 may contribute to the domestic bliss of commuters from Ashford to St Pancras who take what the railway company likes to call 'the Happy Train' to and from work having enjoyed an extra 20 minutes in bed in the morning, but it does little for anyone else.

In spite of risible claims that "a majority of commuters now use the high-speed service" the reality is that anyone travelling from the east Kent and Medway towns is now paying a very great deal more to be taken to a station that they do not want to arrive at, for the privilege of then making a 20-minute underground journey back to the place that they really wanted to get to.

Door-to-door journey times (the times that ministers, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and the train operating company do not understand are the times that matter) are longer and fares are higher.

What Southeastern Trains euphemistically describes as the 'classic' services that still run, occasionally, into Victoria, Blackfriars and Cannon Street, now travel at a snail's pace, stop at stations that most of us never realised had escaped the Beeching Axe, and are overcrowded.

Meanwhile, the 'high-speed' trains have been shortened in recognition of the lack of public support for what, with hindsight, has become an unfinished 'vanity' monument to the last government and many of the coaches that the benighted taxpayers of Kent are being compelled to fork out

for lie idle and mothballed in goods yards in Faversham and elsewhere – no doubt to be spirited away to another grand project in due course.

I really would like to applaud High Speed 1, but I suspect that I shall be pushing up daisies before any real benefits accrue to those whose interests I try to represent.

There are, for instance, as Network Rail told me very recently, no plans in the pipeline to extend the Javelin service from Ashford through to a Thanet Parkway station or even Ramsgate. No plans to sort out the missing miles of new track, alter bridges, remove level crossings and deliver the 60-minute service from Ramsgate to London that was actually achievable a quarter of a century ago using old trans, old stock and existing signals and track.

So much of our hard-earned money has been ploughed into HS1 that there is nothing left over to swiftly upgrade the signals and the points that might, then, at least deliver a swifter service on the Kent coastline. And now, in order to, as Southeastern's media apologist so elegantly puts it, "pay for investment", we are facing, following three years of above average fare increases, a further rise not of the ministerial RPI plus-three per cent, but of 12.8 per cent on tracks that carry passengers to and from one of the areas of highest social deprivation in the country.

And while those travelling faster and at less cost to other more affluent areas of the South East, Kent's rail passengers can only wonder at the stupidity of a system that denies access to a port, a potentially viable regional airport and, of course, to businesses that might wish to invest in east Kent if only they could travel there by rail at speeds in excess of 35mph!

My view is that HS1 has been brought about at inordinate cost and waste, to the benefit of a very few and to the detriment of the many who are paying for it, but who wish to use other services.

Dick Turpin would have been amazed, I think, at the gall of those who, at least for the moment, are being allowed to run our railway.

No point in holding up the passengers at pistol-point Dick. Their pockets have already been emptied by other highwaymen.



Greed is not good for port

Re: Bob Goldfield's comments on our Great Britain riddled with foreign ownership.

Yes, we do take electricity from the French, because in the late 1970s a previous Conservative government told the British people they could not be trusted to own their electricity industry. So they sold it off and it is now owned by the French who presumably can be trusted to own it and to take the profits from the electricity bills we pay.

And so on, ad infinitum. Water, gas, telecomms, railways, not forgetting the 'jewel in the crown' of 51 per cent of British Petroleum bought for the nation by Winston Churchill in 1904, and sold off by the Tories when last in office.

There is money in our services from all over the world, and that's the way finance works, so says Mr Goldfield.

But it did not work, did it? That's why we are trillions of pounds in debt and not likely to get out of it because the free market, which he

supports, is greedy, inefficient and persistently rewards for failure.

That is the system the Dover Ports CEO wants to inflict on our highly profitable Ports Trust.

We will lose the income from our docks and once again find that we cannot get an income from what we no longer own. With the port's business and the nation depressed, a private owner would have the perfect excuse not to expand.

As for 'quality investors', recent events have made it clear that there are no longer such creatures.

In the world of finance 'greed is good' is still the order of the day.

Investment from pension funds? Not likely – all the reputable ones are in debt.

Leave it alone, Mr Goldfield, it's ours, not yours to play with.

Jack Hawker, Deal

Our privacy is worth saving

ID cards are being scrapped, and with them the National Identity Register and the ContactPoint children's database.

This is a success for NO2ID and I

would like to publicly thank all those who supported and helped with our campaign – not just in my own branch, but across east and mid-Kent.

So, is it all over? No, even though we may no longer be out on the streets with our stalls.

A bureaucratic obsession with ID and information sharing goes on, and so do we. Your finances, your travel by plane or car, who you call and email, soon your medical records... all are starting to be captured and made available for 'mining'.

A 2009 report looked at 46 big government database projects. It found more than half damage personal privacy or create other risks. Only two of those have since been cancelled.

We define the 'Database State' as the trend to manage society by collecting data, mass surveillance, and authoritarian oversight of all aspects of our lives.

NO2ID continues to campaign against state identity management and the abuse of personal information, and for individual control of what is private.

Our current campaigns concern a proposed centralised electoral regis-



Sport savings will go on obesity help

IN LESS than two years' time Team GB will discover if all the money invested in British sport is truly worth it.

The 2012 London Olympics will put the country's brightest young talents under the international spotlight, and chances are they will do us proud by bringing home one of the largest medal hauls in recent memory.

But if the Government has its way and cuts the funding for School Sports Partnerships (SSPs), it could be a very long time before they are able to do so again.

England will always have a steady stream of children wanting to become the next football, rugby or cricket stars, but it is less popular sports like table tennis and badminton that will suffer if the SSPs are scrapped. And what of childhood obesity – a problem that is by no means solved and will only get worse if pupils have even less opportunity to take part in physical activity?

There is a serious risk the savings made by cutting SSP funding will come back to haunt the Government in the form of increased costs to the NHS.

While ministers must be congratulated for following Kent's lead and supporting a national school Olympics, it must not fall into the trap of thinking that alone will do.

Children benefit tremendously from year-round physical exercise and competition, so to take that away from them would be an invitation to stay at home and watch television every day.

And as most parents know only too well, many youngsters will not need to be asked twice.

Cliffs not so unique

DOVER Town Council's website claims to welcome us all to "the best in an English seaside town", but it's a shame the town in question appears to be 50-odd miles away in Sussex.

The strange thing was, it took residents more than three years to spot that a picture supposed to be the famous White Cliffs was actually of the Seven Sisters.

ter with local authority powers to cross-match data to track those who don't register, medical confidentiality and the NHS Spine (not yet rolled out in Kent, but coming), tracking travellers through e-passports and e-borders, abuse of DNA records, snooping on internet and telephone use, and police logging of all car journeys using ANPR cameras.

Government needs some information to work, but they always take and use much more than they need.

All squeeze facts out of you and force others to provide more – 'just for the file'. You may have to deal with them, but you can't say what they can do with that file.

In a few years it has become 'normal' to be asked to provide ID, proof of address or other details by people who don't need them. More is officially gathered, cross-checked, passed-on – even to other countries.

You should have the right to decide who knows what about you.

"We know where you live" is an old threat. The database state means state control of personal identity – with or without ID cards.

Ian Taylor, NO2ID local group co-ordinator (Dover)



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BAYLISS

Daniela Maureen Rosalind born 4th November 2010 weighing 7lb 3oz. Daughter to Ian and Tracey and sister to Dean. Granddaughter to John and Maureen, Brent and Rosalind.

CROMPTON

Kirsty and Chevy of Folkestone celebrate the birth of their daughter Eleanor Ruby Rose on 9th November 2010.

CURRIE

Maxine and Terry celebrate the birth of their son Isaac William Currie, born on 9th November 2010, weighing 8lb 8oz.

DAY

Paul and Caroline of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their second son, Leo George, on 17th November 2010. A new brother for Rory.

DOUGLAS

Paul and Dee welcome their son Isaac Henry Douglas into the world on 2nd November 2010, weighing 9lb 2oz. A baby brother to Gracie.

GROUNDS

Barry and Gaynor of Whitstable are delighted to announce

the safe arrival of their beautiful twins, Megaen and Lyndan, born on 9th November 2010. A new sister and brother for Tony.

HUGHES

John and Laura Hughes celebrate the birth of their son Jack Hughes on 8th November 2010.

JONES

Tobias Quintan born on 13th November 2010 at 14.42, weighing 8lbs 10ozs. Son to Lisa and Darren and brother to Aimee.

NEWTON

Justin and Hannah are delighted to announce the birth of their son Toby Roy Newton, who was born on 7th November 2010.

REYNOLDS

Paul Reynolds and Katherine George of Canterbury celebrate the birth of their son, Thomas Frank, on 6th November 2010. A brother for Jemima May.

RILEY

Emma and John Riley celebrate the birth of their son Johnny Lee Riley on 12th November 2010. A brother for Maisie.

ROWLAND-HILL

Nicola and Ian Rowland-Hill celebrate the birth of their son

Montgomery Ian Rowland-Hill on 1st November 2010, weighing 7lbs 13oz.

SHAW

Emma Isabel born on 14th November 2010, weighing 5lbs 11ozs. Daughter to Julie and Michael.

STYLES

Claire and Adam of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter Alyssia Cassie Styles on 11th November 2010. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

DEATHS

FRANCIS

Ruby 17.11.1918-14.11.2010. Our beloved mum passed away peacefully at Kearsney Manor Nursing Home, now reunited with our dad. We will miss you so much. All our love Jane and Chris.

KNAPTON

Denis Knaption of Istead Rise passed away after a long illness on 17th November aged 81 years.

LYONS

Winifred Mary Lyons died peacefully at home on 17th November 2010 age 91. Dearly loved mother of Celia and

Moir and grandmother of Patrick, Lindsey and Nicholas.

MUIR

George Peter Muir of Folkestone died peacefully on 22nd November 2010. Will be sorely missed by Lorraine, Trevor and grandchildren.

SIMMONDS

Helene passed away peacefully on the 14th November 2010. Much loved mother and grandmother, will be sadly missed. Funeral at Our Lady of Assumption, Northfleet, on 1st December at 10.30.

SLINGSBY

Ruby Slingsby, much loved mum, nan and great nan, passed away on the 17th November peacefully, aged 95 years. Re-united with Frank now. Will be sadly missed every day. God bless you, love from all the family.

VELVICK

Nellie Velvick of Charing passed away peacefully at the William Harvey Hospital on 22nd November 2010. She will be sadly missed by all the family. Funeral to be held at Charing Church on Wednesday 1st December at 11.30.

try against giving up our independence.

Where were the EU in 1940? They had surrendered to the enemy and relied on Great Britain for survival.

If only successive British governments had produced somebody with a scrap of the bravery our fighting forces showed we would not be in this position now.

For heaven's sake let us all unite and face this threat to our country before it is too late.

Derek Thompson, Herne Bay

Catching cruelty in the slaughterhouse

Animal Aid has filmed undercover in eight randomly chosen UK slaughterhouses and found shocking animal suffering and law-breaking in seven of them (see the footage at www.animalaid.co.uk/go/cruelty).

Workers clearly believe they will not be caught out harming animals and that they are, therefore, immune from prosecution.

In order to make slaughterhouses obey the law – and to provide evidence to prosecute those who don't – Animal Aid is asking supermarkets to insist that slaughterhouses that supply them are fitted with CCTV cameras.

Our campaign has received strong backing

from the RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming, the Soil Association and the Government's own Food Standards Agency.

Last week, Morrisons agreed to install CCTV in its own slaughterhouses. The law must be enforced and the worst abuses stopped. Please call Animal Aid today, on 01732 364546 and we can send you a set of six campaign postcards addressed to the main supermarket chains.

Richard Mountford, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Charity track race

Would any of your readers like to raise money for cancer prevention while running around the world-famous Silverstone Formula One track?

The Adidas Silverstone Half-Marathon gets underway on March 6, next year and offers the perfect preparation for anyone planning on running the London Marathon the following month.

World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) is offering free entry to the race for anyone who raises £300 in sponsorship.

Those wishing to take part in the event at the Northamptonshire home of F1 should call 020 7343 4200 or visit www.wcrf-uk.org/signup to race for WCRF.

Natalie Tarrant, WCRF



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Taxing issue of foreign truckers

We live in Deal and often travel to Dover where there always seems more foreign lorries on the roads than British.

It is not unusual to hear of accidents caused by foreign drivers not understanding the rules of our roads.

Why was the proposal of a Britdisc road tax by Gordon Brown shelved? I have always wanted to know the reason for this.

They are wearing our roads out, and I support Mr Roger Gale's appeal for more rigorous inspections, ensuring all vehicles entering the UK are road worthy.

We must go straight ahead and get this Britdisc road tax working.

I know the Government has an awful lot on its plate, but this will bring much-needed money into the country.

Mavis Fitzsimmons, Deal

We would pay the price of a Britdisc

Roger Gale MP complained in his article about foreign trucks filling up with cheap diesel abroad and not buying Britain's expensive diesel when driving in this country. But the real issue is why not tell us why we have the most expensive diesel in Europe, Mr Gale?

Though I am no expert on the subject, do British trucks pay extra taxes in EU countries than its domestic equivalents?

Yes, they have road tolls on motorways, but everybody has to pay these, regardless of nationality.

Of course, running any business in this

country is expensive, because the whole country is bogged down in red tape and legislation that gives other countries an unfair commercial advantage, but you MPs make the rules.

Any form of Britdisc would turn out to be a logistical nightmare, with most of the money gained wasted on administration and what little is left would 'disappear' into the Treasury trough. It is also opening the door for road tolling for all vehicles.

Who eventually would end up paying for this shambles? We all would.

Sorry, I am not voting for what is effectively a wage reduction, or to be singled out tit for tat when I drive abroad.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Past leaders have got it all wrong

In reply to your letter 'EU cousins a costly relation' (June Moore, November 14).

How much longer will it take this country to wake up to the realisation the European Union is a costly fraud and we are being sucked into their intrigue?

Watching the Remembrance Day parades brought home once again the many lives that were given up so we would remain free. Those brave people are being betrayed by successive British governments.

David Cameron was very reminiscent of Neville Chamberlain when he returned from Germany in 1938, to promise "peace in our time".

Mr Cameron has gone back on a promise he gave for a referendum and now tries to convince us that he has returned from Europe in triumph, when he has merely agreed to contribute a further £900 million of taxpayers' money to this unelected group of European twisters.

Oh for another Winston Churchill to lead us into action again and to defend our coun-

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 Dartford 01322 227581

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Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban from 16.5 (17.1) to 61.4 (4.6), Extra-urban - from 35.8 (7.9) to 88.3 (3.2), Combined - from 25.0 (11.3) to 76.3 (3.7). CO2 emissions from 265 to 98g/km.

Under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme for new cars, a driver can get the use of a brand new, all-new Astra 5-dr Hatchback Exclusiv 1.7CDTi 16v (110PS) ecoFLEX 0+ as shown with optional 17-inch alloy wheels. New Meriva Exclusiv 1.4i 16v VVT (100PS) 0+ as shown at Nil Advance Payment. The facilities offered are for the hire/bailment of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HL. Offer valid from 1 October 2010 - 31 December 2010. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, which will be taken in lieu of the monthly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. All information correct at time of going to press. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&OE.

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KENT ADULT EDUCATION



SPORTS stars of the future have received scholarships from the University of Kent. Every year the university awards scholarships to sportsmen and women who have competed at county, regional or international level. Fifty-six scholarships worth between £300 and £2,000 were presented, covering 21 sports. Among the recipients were England under-21 hockey player Susannah Townsend, duathlete Patrick Owen and American football players Lawrence Laryea and Thomas Outhwaite.

How do you help children with challenging behaviour to get the most out of education?

Kent County Council wants to hear from education providers who can excite and motivate disengaged and disaffected young people.

Reaching young people and helping them achieve their potential is both important and rewarding. Providers who are able to supply exciting, engaging part and full time programmes of education, particularly for those at key stage 4 (14-16 years), are invited to

The Village Hotel, Maidstone, on 14 December.

KCC has limited tendering opportunities for the 2011 - 2012 academic year and countywide opportunities from September 2012. It is expected expressions of interest will be advertised from mid December 2010.

These will be advertised on the South East Business portal.

For further information about this event, please see the detailed advert on the South East Business Portal
www.businessportal.southeastiep.gov.uk



Electronic versions of all presentations will be available on request.



SKILLED: Jacqui Brown of MidKent College with Kingsnorth staff

Power of good

KINGSNORTH power station employees have added a string to their bow by completing an NVQ course in plant operations, *writes Steve Knight.*

Eighty workers at the site on the Hoo Peninsula, near Rochester, took part in the training scheme, which was run by the plant's management firm Norec in partnership with MidKent College.

Site manager John Huxted said: "We've seen an increase in enthusiasm of our staff because we've demonstrated through part-funding the training that we value them and are committed to developing their skills."

"We've also seen an increase in competency. As a manager I like to know my staff are trained to a high-quality, national standard."

"This training opportunity was one we simply couldn't miss."

The NVQ was delivered at Kingsnorth's own on-site training centre – set up in January, 2009 – and funded by Train to Gain with a Norec subsidy of more than £15,000.

It is hoped a further 120 workers will also enrol on the course by the end of March in a nation-

al drive to raise the skills of the entire Norec Group workforce.

Jacqui Brown, the head of MidKent College's business development unit, said: "As well as working in partnership with Norec at its Kingsnorth plant, the college is also delighted to be supporting it with training at power stations as far afield as Liverpool and Rugeley."

"Norec's aim is to ensure all its operators are fully competent and qualified in their role, across the country."

Kingsnorth is a 1,940MW dual-fired power station, meaning each of its four main units is capable of using both coal and oil. It also has the capability to burn biomass products, which can replace up to 10 per cent of the coal used in electricity generation. Garrick Capp, 32, from Hoo, said: "I've worked here for eight years but feel much more confident now. I'm happy to have my first nationally recognised qualification."

A BUS electrician from Kent has been named apprentice of the year by tutors at City College, Coventry.

Nathan Smith is in his fourth year of an apprenticeship with Arriva Southern Counties and is based at the firm's depot in Maidstone, having started his training in Gillingham.

He saw off competition from 15 other trainees from bus companies around the country to take the title.

Nathan said: "I'd like to thank all the engineering staff at Gillingham and my colleagues at Maidstone for their assistance."



WINNER: Nathan Smith, left

EDUCATION providers from across Kent took part in an event to encourage young people to study at universities closer to home.

Held at MidKent College's Maidstone campus, the day was also attended by representatives from Greenwich, Kent and Canterbury Christ Church universities, among others.

MidKent's learning support leader Rebecca Attwood said: "It makes sense in this climate to pull our local providers together. We have quality higher education provision right on our doorstep and we're keen to advocate that."

A **VOLUNTEER** at Maidstone Museum has been selected to study for a masters degree researching a rare collection of early photographs.

Brian Carr has been asked to study 43 daguerreotype images – released in 1839 by French photographer Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre – on behalf of the De Montford University in Leicester.

Mr Carr said: "I had read about daguerreotypes, but actually holding one of these early images made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. I am honoured to have unrestricted access to such a rare collection and hope I can do it justice."



RESEARCH: Brian Carr

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Field Sales Executive – Kent Life magazine

Kent Life is part of Archant Life South East, a division of the UK's largest independently-owned regional media business. We currently have a vacancy for a Field Sales Executive in the Kent Life advertising sales team. This role is based from home, although you will be required occasionally to travel to our Worthing office.

The role will involve working in a team dealing with a variety of existing customers and developing new business opportunities. You will be working on core magazines and websites and cross selling into other titles within our portfolio.

The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated individual with relevant experience in sales or a similar role. They will possess excellent communication and negotiation skills, have the ability to cultivate and maintain excellent business relationships and deliver a high standard of service to our customers.

In return we offer a good basic salary, 5 weeks' annual holiday, company sickness, pension scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

To apply please send a covering letter and your cv to:
Rhiannon Wragg, Advertisement Director, Archant Life South East,
email rhiannon.wragg@archant.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 3rd December 2010

Archant is a community media group which publishes around 65 newspapers, 80 magazines and 180 websites. Archant is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community and all age groups. For further information and opportunities visit www.archant.co.uk

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57 bedded nursing/residential home
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Please call Sarah on **01622 695555**

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Required for immediate start. To work for our family run business based near Folkestone although will need to work throughout Kent. Must be over 21 with full clean driving licence due to insurance cover. Hours and rates of pay negotiable.

Please telephone Fiona on 01303 248828 to enquire or email Fiona@dmspropertymaintenance.co.uk

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Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk
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Whilst you do not need to be a qualified Psychological Therapist, you must bring an in-depth understanding of current psychological therapy practices. Knowledge and understanding of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) initiative would be an advantage. Proven management experience ideally gained in a similar setting is essential, combined with a self-motivated approach, first-rate communication skills and the ability to influence thinking at all levels.

If you have the ambition to make this high-potential role your own, you will enjoy the real opportunity to make a major impact on our future.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or telephone 01795 590795 and select option three.
Please quote reference 730.

Closing date: 9 December 2010.

Interview date: Early in January 2011.

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www.kca.org.uk

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Initially, you will be required to become part of the Linkfresh® project team to support the development, testing and implementation process. There will be opportunities to mentor and then manage this change in process within different departments ensuring a smooth roll out with each division within the group.

The successful candidates will need a proven track record of operating in the fresh produce sector and will require a flexible approach due to the nature of this change process. In return our client is offering a competitive salary and benefits package, but more importantly the opportunity to develop a career with this industry leading company.

Our client is seeking individuals for an initial contract period of 1 year; with the potential for both extensions in contract term and movements into permanent roles.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to:
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For more information please phone 07941 902869.

Closing Date: Wednesday 1st December

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 **01303 817040**



PARENT CHAMPIONS

Parents Consortium, SPACE, Includes Us 2 and For Us 2 are four charities and community groups working across Kent to improve the lives of disabled children and their families.

Each of these charities is now looking to recruit a Parents Champion for 15 hours/week over 8 months for £17,750 p.a. pro rata. The post holders will work with parents and other agencies to improve child care for disabled children. Initially home based with job share/flexible hour options. Timely, independent travel is required to achieve the role.

Contact details for an application pack or to find out more about the post are given below. The closing date for all posts is mid day 10 December.

Parents Consortium: Dartford/Gravesend coverage.

Contact Alan Milner (01322 668501) or e-mail milnera@parentsconsortium.co.uk

Sunrise Parents Advisory Committee: Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells/Sevenoaks coverage.

Contact Peter Nicholls (01892 530330) or e-mail peter.nicholls@vawk.org.uk

Includes us 2: Ashford/Shepway/Dover coverage.

Contact Gillian Wells (07970 928425) or Debs Aspland (07832 196 956)

both on IncludesUs2@hotmail.com.

Interviews 16 December.

For Us 2: Canterbury/Thanet/Swale coverage.

Contact Ivan O'Reilly (01227 741748), or e-mail Ivan.OReilly@childrensociety.org.uk.

Interviews early January.

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For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331 or Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full-time position

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Liz Justice – 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital,

Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Ashford)

1 Full-time and 1 Part-time position
Closing date for applications - Monday 6th December 2010

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Debbie Burr – 01233 616201 Ext: 86202

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital,

Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

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Interview dates: Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 December 2010

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To apply please submit with your application to Kay Allen, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 10th December 2010 at 10.00 am

Interviews: 16th December 2010

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

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23 November 2010

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone are seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Ref: SE070**Hourly Paid Lecturer in Construction Ref: SE071**

Hourly rate: £22.41 - £27.16 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit exceptional staff to join our Advanced Computing and Engineering department for the above roles. The successful candidates will have recent industry experience and a recognised qualification within the subject area to a minimum of Level 3 or equivalent. The post holders will hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Child Care Ref: P0070

18.5 hours per week, Fixed Term Maternity Cover Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking for knowledgeable and experienced candidates to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidates will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 8 December 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Creative
Committed
Enthusiastic
Resilient

Bradstow School

Teachers do amazing things

If you would like to join our teachers at Bradstow, we are confident that:

- It will probably be the hardest teaching job you will ever have.
- It will certainly be the most satisfying.

Bradstow is an exciting and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, many of whom have associated challenging behaviours. We have achieved international recognition for Leadership and our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

Professional and personal qualities in this specialised and challenging field are very important. Experience, whilst helpful is not essential. Extensive and on-going training and support of all staff is at the core of the success of the school. All teachers are fully trained and supported in Gentle Teaching, TEACCH, Prospect PBS, PECS and other Augmentative Communication Systems as well as being provided with other specialist skills. You will also be supported and encouraged to further develop your skills and knowledge by undertaking further Degree and Diploma studies.

OFSTED 2009 said,

"Bradstow is an outstanding school"**"The curriculum and the quality of teaching and support are exceptional"****"It is to the tremendous credit of a highly skilled and well-qualified team of teachers and support staff that they enable pupils to overcome and cope with the substantial learning and emotional barriers that they face"****"Bradstow is a very complex organisation and a centre of excellence in its own field"**

If you would like to join our team, and help us to continue to transform the lives of these children and their families, give us a call. Be in no doubt, this is a challenging working environment for which you will need to be committed to the needs of the child and the school. In return we offer a highly rewarding and satisfying career, with quite a bit of fun thrown in as well!

For SEN specialists, the second SEN point may be available.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk. Please note that CVs will not be considered.

Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 10th December 2010.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

The Westlands School
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Following the success of the initiative to reduce the number of hours that a teacher has to spend covering for absent colleagues we require as soon as possible another

LESSON SUPERVISOR

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

**Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766 depending on experience)**

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date, Wednesday 1 December 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA

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Administration, Secretarial, PA

CLERK TO THE GOVERNING BODY & COLLEGE SOLICITOR

Broadstairs
Salary ~£28,00
CLERK TO THE GOVERNING BODY & COLLEGE SOLICITOR
Salary ~£28,000 for 22.5 hours per week, all year
We are looking to appoint a Clerk to the Governing Body and College Solicitor to work with the Chair, Principal and other governors in advising the Governing Body on constitutional and legal matters, duties and powers and to work within the broad current legislative framework. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on "Vacancies". Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052
Closing date: Friday 3 December 2010
Interview dates: Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 December 2010
To apply/more information: Thanet College personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Creative Personal Assistant

Ashford
Salary Salary Negotiable
Full-time Creative Personal AssistantReporting to the managing director and editorial directorThe successful applicant will need to demonstrate they have the ability to not only produce excellent reports and run senior directors' diaries, but also have writing skills that would not be out of place in our newsroom. You will be producing monthly management reports and minutes of board meetings as well as preparing copy for marketing, and on occasions supplying well written PR for our websites, newspapers and magazines as well as the wider world of media. This position also demands absolute discretion as the business develops in the coming years. The successful applicant must also have the ability to work to tight deadlines and be flexible when work demands dictate. Some knowledge of media, marketing

or PR would be advantageous. We offer an excellent basic **Salary** plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: sandra.waghorn@kosmedia.co.uk or in writing to Sandra Waghorn, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
To apply/more information: ARCHANT J KOS MEDIA applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Bar Manager

Gravesend
Salary ~£28 an hour
Bar manager required to run and maintain a busy bar. Must be over 18 years old and possess a personal license. The candidate must be reliable, take pride in their work, good communication skills, must have relevant experience and be able to think on their feet including general bar duties. The candidate will be required to work unsociable hours including weekends.
To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Refrigeration Engineers. F-Gas Certified.

Tired of working on ,low tech equipment?
Thermotron Industries manufactures , ,high tech, equipment used by technical experts in engineering and product qualification laboratories all over Europe. As a leading manufacturer of environmental chambers, we will keep you stimulated with an interesting career, training and some European travel. Thermotron offers you: Work that, interesting and challenging.

High tech equipment to work on (say goodbye to air conditioners and chillers).
Ongoing professional training. Access to factory technical advisors. (Support when you are on site)
Frequent travel to Europe. A company provided vehicle and benefits.
Security for the future. We are well established.
If you are currently a qualified refrigeration engineer with F-Gas certification and are looking for the opportunity to get ahead, don't delay, apply now to: tkennedy@thermotron.com
Or post to: Thermotron Industries Newton House, Winch Road,, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, Kent
To apply/more information: Thermotron Industries tkennedy@thermotron.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Management, Senior Positions

Operations Manager Psychological Therapy Services

East Kent & Medway
Salary ~£38,042 - £45,202
Operations Manager Psychological Therapy Services ~£38,042 - £45,202 plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to ~£1,239 per annum 37 hours per week .
Based East Kent and MedwayKCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) provide a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services which are ranked within the top 25% nationally. Combining clinical expertise, a wide range of high-quality provision and constantly improving effectiveness, our

psychological therapy services have achieved significant growth including the award of major new contracts in Kent, Surrey and Havering in recent years. Your role will be to lead the ongoing development of the service and to ensure that all contractual obligations are achieved across East Kent. In addition to managing the teams working across the area, you will build strong professional relationships with commissioning bodies and partnership organisations. You will create a team-focused ethos within the service and support staff to promote sustained delivery improvements. Whilst you do not need to be a qualified Psychological Therapist, you must bring an in-depth understanding of current psychological therapy practices. Knowledge and understanding of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) initiative would be an advantage. Proven management experience ideally gained in a similar setting is essential, combined with a self-motivated approach, first-rate communication skills and the ability to influence thinking at all levels. If you have the ambition to make this high-potential role your own, you will enjoy the real opportunity to make a major impact on our future. An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or telephone 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference 730. **Closing date:** 9 December 2010. **Interview date:** Early in January 2011. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. **Charity No:** 292824www.kca.org.uk
To apply/more information: KCA (UK) admin@kca.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 730

Marketing, Advertising

Junior Marketing Openings - Immediate Starts Available

Maidstone
Salary Salary Negotiable
How much are you worth? YOU decide!!
JK Marketing Services is actively seeking creative professionals who are serious about long term

success in a marketing development opportunity. A positive and energetic attitude is a must for all candidates. Why JK? JK Marketing Services is committed to setting a standard of excellence for our clients, as well as providing each individual with a unique opportunity. Our clients used to rely on the traditional forms of marketing; TV, Radio, Billboards, Spam, Print, Direct Mail and Telemarketing to get their messages across to customers. The JK Way - We represent our clients to the public with a professionalism and enthusiasm. Meeting with them face to face means we build a personal relationship with them, educate them and make them aware of their options. Our residential campaigns reach a high percentage of the population & saturating the market to help our clients increase their customer base. No experience necessary as we can provide advice and insight into all areas listed below. Our marketing and communications experts provide full product knowledge to the right candidates. Although we are not looking for specific educational qualifications or experience, the following characteristics are mandatory; You must be a people person, You must be ambitious, You must have a strong work ethic, You must value integrity. WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUTURE PARTNERS NOT EMPLOYEES!!!
Due to the nature of the openings and for the number of people currently looking for work in Kent, multiple interviews will be involved for selected candidates. If you believe you can rise to the challenge and you share our passion for excellence in all areas of field sales we would love to hear from you. Please send a cover letter with your CV to admin@jkmarketingservices.com for immediate consideration or alternatively call and speak to Gemma on 01622 691730 for an immediate appointment. *ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE 18+ YEARS OF AGE AND AVAILABLE FOR FULL TIME HOURS
To apply/more information: JK Marketing Services admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Junior Marketing Openings

Maidstone
Salary Salary Negotiable
How much are you worth? YOU decide!!
JK Marketing Services is actively seeking creative professionals who are serious about long term success in a marketing development opportunity. A positive and energetic attitude is a must for all candidates. Why JK? JK Marketing Services is committed to setting a standard of excellence for our clients, as well as providing each individual with a unique opportunity. Our clients used to rely on the traditional forms of marketing; TV, Radio, Billboards, Spam, Print, Direct Mail and Telemarketing to get their messages across to customers. The JK Way - We represent our clients to the public with a professionalism and enthusiasm. Meeting with them face to face means we build a personal relationship with them, educate them and make them aware of their options. Our residential campaigns reach a high percentage of the population & saturating the market to help our clients increase their customer base. No experience necessary as we can provide advice and insight into all areas listed below. Our marketing and communications experts provide full product knowledge to the right candidates. Although we are not looking for specific educational qualifications or experience, the following characteristics are mandatory; You must be a people person, You must be ambitious, You must have a strong work ethic, You must value integrity. WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUTURE PARTNERS NOT EMPLOYEES!!!
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To apply/more information: JK Marketing Services admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

All must have digital tacho and multi-drop experience.

Based in Aylesford, Maidstone. Please call Sarah on 01622 695555
To apply/more information: Extrastaff Ltd sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MOT tester/mechanic

Sutton Valence
Salary Salary Negotiable
MOT tester/mechanic required for a small village garage south of Maidstone. Mon- Fri and alternate Sat. mornings. Good basic wages plus profit sharing. Ring 01622 842776
Hilltop Garage applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Junior Marketing Openings

Maidstone
Salary Salary Negotiable
How much are you worth? YOU decide!!
JK Marketing Services is actively seeking creative professionals who are serious about long term success in a marketing development opportunity. A positive and energetic attitude is a must for all candidates. Why JK? JK Marketing Services is committed to setting a standard of excellence for our clients, as well as providing each individual with a unique opportunity. Our clients used to rely on the traditional forms of marketing; TV, Radio, Billboards, Spam, Print, Direct Mail and Telemarketing to get their messages across to customers. The JK Way - We represent our clients to the public with a professionalism and enthusiasm. Meeting with them face to face means we build a personal relationship with them, educate them and make them aware of their options. Our residential campaigns reach a high percentage of the population & saturating the market to help our clients increase their customer base. No experience necessary as we can provide advice and insight into all areas listed below. Our marketing and communications experts provide full product knowledge to the right candidates. Although we are not looking for specific educational qualifications or experience, the following characteristics are mandatory; You must be a people person, You must be ambitious, You must have a strong work ethic, You must value integrity. WE ARE LOOKING FOR FUTURE PARTNERS NOT EMPLOYEES!!!
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To apply/more information: JK Marketing Services admin@jkmarketingservices.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Finding staff
24-7
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Sales Person

Aylesford
Sales Person
Maidstone Company require a Sales Person
Market
Engineering product sales involving all aspects of the sales cycle from prospecting/cold calling, client consultation and presentations through to closing and ensuring smooth implementation and handover of contracts dept. Responsibilities
Developing existing customer relationships.
To sell our portfolio of products and services to new clients.
To prospect for new business in a variety of ways including cold calling and utilisation of lead sources.
Preparation of sales proposals

for prospective clients. Sales support, making appointments for potential clients through a variety of methods (mainly telephony based) and following up appointments with information required to progress the sale. To ensure accurate reporting back to management, to ensure activities and targets are met. Maintain CRM data. Personal Criteria
Relevant sales or tele-marketing experience in technology or service products. A proven ability to hit targets. Educated to a standard complementary to an executive role. Minimum requirement, GCSE Maths and English or equivalent.
Excellent communication skills and telephone manner. Outgoing, friendly character. Good listening skills. Ambitious and self driven. If you feel you have the relevant skills and experience then please send your CV to Mark Fletcher at mark@fercell.com or telephone 01622 882916
To apply/more information: Fercell mark@fercell.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Card Merchandiser

Broadstairs
Salary Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: LM Merchandising lm.merchandising@tiscali.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Transport Clerk

Ashford
Transport Clerk required Must be computer literate Mon-Fri 7am-3pm Temp to Perm Based in Ashford Please call Sarah on 01622 695555 **To apply/more information:** Extrastaff Ltd sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MOT tester/mechanic

Sutton Valence
Salary Salary Negotiable
MOT tester/mechanic required for a small village garage south of Maidstone. Mon- Fri and alternate Sat. mornings. Good basic wages plus profit sharing. Ring 01622 842776
To apply/more information: Hilltop Garage applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES 2010/11

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maidstone Borough Council in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 propose to vary the flag fall charged in a licensed Hackney Carriage for the period 2010/11 as follows (current fares shown in *italics*).

TARIFF 1
For the first 685.6 metres (749.4 yards) Or 3 minute 5 seconds waiting time or part thereof £2.80 (*£2.60*)


TARIFF 2
(A) For hirings commenced between midnight and 6.00am and all day Sunday and Bank Holidays 50% above Tariff 1 rate EXCEPT where Tariff 3 applies. (From 6.00pm to Midnight on 24 December Tariff 2 Applies, from 6.00pm to Midnight on 31 December Tariff 2 applies) **For the first 685.6 metres (749.4 yards) Or 3 minute 5 seconds waiting time or part thereof £4.20 (*£3.90*)**

TARIFF 3
(B) For hirings commenced between Midnight 24 December and 6.00am on 27 December Tariff 3 Applies and Midnight on 31 December and 6.00am on 2 January 100% above Tariff 1 rate. **For the first 685.6 metres (749.4 yards) Or 3 minute 5 seconds waiting time or part thereof £5.60 (*£5.20*)**

Dated this 28 November 2010

Objections to the proposed increases must be made in writing within 14 days from the date of publication of this tariff **28 November 2010** and addressed to;

Licensing Services
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6JQ



By no later than noon on 12 December 2010

"A Copy of this notice shall for the period of 14 days from the date of first publication thereof **28 November 2010** be deposited at the offices Maidstone Borough Council and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment."

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/03566/HOUSE 2 Hungershall Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Replacement garden room to rear with associated internal works and creation of new kitchen, conversion of existing annex (previously garage) back into a garage with workshop/garden store, refurbishment of existing garden shed and associated wall, external works and internal refurbishment (LB) (CA)

10/03567/LBC 2 Hungershall Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement garden room to rear with associated internal works and creation of new kitchen, conversion of existing annex (previously garage) back into a garage with workshop/garden store, refurbishment of existing garden shed and associated wall, external works and internal refurbishment (LB)

10/03573/HOUSE The Postern Postern Lane, Capel
- Removal of existing and redundant solar panels and replace with PV panels to generate green electricity (LB)

10/03690/HOUSE Hammonds Barn Crowbourne Lane, Hawkhurst
Installation of woodburning stove on a slate base with a 150mm flue rising no more than 650mm above the apex of the roof (LB)

10/03697/HOUSE Tower Lodge Hastings Road, Hawkhurst
- Erection of garden store/workshop; Erection of studio, erection of porch (LB) (CA)

10/03738/HOUSE Cromwell House School Hill, Lamberhurst
- Removal of front canopy and construction of new brick porch; Removal of timber conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension; Internal alterations including rear dormer window (LB)

10/03740/LBC Cromwell House School Hill, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of front canopy and construction of new brick porch; Removal of timber conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension; Internal alterations including rear dormer window (LB)

10/03440/LBC 1A, 1B & 1C Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of gas central heating (LB)

10/03489/LBC Tunbridge Wells Adult Education Centre Monson Road, Park
- Listed Building Consent - (1) Repairs to front elevation stonework and roof; (2) Secondary glazing fire protection to 3 No. large windows adjacent to fire escape; (3) Removal and infill of 3 No. pavement lights (LB)

10/03713/FUL 10 Gorse Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Sherwood
- Erection of 1 No. 3-bed 5 person detached dwelling located on the land south-east of No.10 Gorse Road; Associated hard and soft landscaping including 1 No. off road parking space to the proposed property and 1 No. new off road parking space provided for the existing occupants of No.10 Gorse Road (CA)

10/03602/FUL Amber Court Holden Road, Southborough North
- Revisions to approved house under development (planning permission TW/06/03771 refers) (CA) (LB)


10/03316/HOUSE Ashurst Mill Millstream Close, Speldhurst
- Extension to existing garage (LB)

10/03686/LBC The Old Rectory Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of the partition wall between proposed kitchen (K2) and lobby (L2) and the repair of the existing chimney breast in kitchen (K2) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement. You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgegells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgegells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date. You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services, Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 November 2010



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Highways - District of Sevenoaks

FORGE LANE AND CROWHURST LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Forge Lane, West Kingsdown between Azo London Road and Crowhurst Lane. Kent County Council also has made an Order suspending the one way restriction on Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown between Forge Lane and Azo London Road.

The Order will become effective on 29th November 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Azo London Road and Crowhurst Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate renewal of existing water mains and associated service pipe.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

Highways - District of Shepway

BOWDELL LANE, BRENZETT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of BT cabling works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bowdell Lane, Brenzett, on or after 13 December 2010 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the works will be carried out between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Azo8o Rhee Wall Road and Grove Lane.

The alternative route is via Azo8o Rhee Wall Road, King Street and Bowdell Lane.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

(LONG MILL LANE, PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Long Mill Lane, from Bell Orchard to Badgers Rise on or after Tuesday 14th December 2010 when required for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Comp Lane, Boneashe Lane, Potash Lane, Long Mill Lane.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to supply a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

(WINDMILL HILL, PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Windmill Hill, outside of Valley Wood on or after Tuesday 14th December 2010 when required for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Windmill Hill, Comp Lane, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Azo London Road, Azo Maidstone Road, A25 Maidstone Road, Windmill Hill.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to supply a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

(NEW POUND LANE, MEREWORTH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991


Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on New Pound Lane, from Beech Road to just past number 72 on or after Monday 29th November 2010 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Beech Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Willow Wents, New Pound Lane.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace a pole and an open wire power line. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XQ

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Sportage now conquers the eye, heart and mind

NOT only has Kia really learned how to make and design cars – and fast – but also quickly found out how to market them.

So, having whetted appetites for its striking new third generation Sportage SUV (sports utility vehicle) with an eye-catching fully loaded First Edition 4x4 special launched on August 1, it has now followed up this month with the more affordable and eco-friendly front-wheel-drive only versions.

And I see many potential buyers, and not just because it offers the Korean marque's familiar sales pitch – value and a seven-year warranty.

For this new Sportage is a Kia you could buy for looks more than the deal and that shouldn't surprise us, because this is the

By **STEVE LOADER**

first Kia penned completely by former Audi design guru and TT creator Peter Schreyer.

He has produced a car to stand tall in a junior SUV sector re-invented as the less brash 'crossover' segment, following the success of the versatile Nissan Qashqai.

I can't quite allow the crossover label to be applied to the Sportage, since it lacks the versatility of rivals like the Qashqai and the Skoda Yeti – the rear seats, for instance, do not fold absolutely flat – but it seduces the eye more and captures the heart on-road with its handling. And now it is winning over the head with the newly-arrived front-driven direct-injection 1.6 GDi petrol and 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel versions, also featur-

ing the fuel and emissions-saving ISG (Intelligent Stop and Go) system for urban and heavy traffic situations.

Sportage prices now start from £16,645 in this 16-model range and the new smaller engines both come with a six-speed manual gearbox, while the 4x4 2.0-litre petrol and diesel motors can be had with five-speed manual or six-speed automatic on the petrol and six-speed manual or auto on the diesel. In its most eco-friendly 1.7-litre diesel form, the Sportage can average well over 50mpg.

Kia says the car targets young families – or the young at heart – who lead busy, primarily urban lifestyles, and Schreyer says he wanted the Sportage to be an object of desire rather than a mode of transport.

To that end, it is longer, lower and wider

than its more workmanlike predecessor.

Generous standard kit includes 16-inch alloys, air con, all-round electric windows, LED daytime running lights, electric door mirrors, leather-covered steering wheel and gearlever knob, front fog lights and cornering lights, automatic rain-sensing windscreen wipers, Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, cruise control, steering wheel-mounted controls and an iPod connection.

Meanwhile, Kia approved used car sales are surging – up nearly 70 per cent during 2010, and largely driven by demand for the popular Picanto supermini and Ceed family hatch/estate range. But the scheme's ace is that all approved used Kias get their warranties topped up to their original levels – three, five or seven years according to model and date of registration.



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NEARLY NEW 2010 60 59 09 REG CARS

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| 2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 4WD SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles..... | £19,995 |
| 2010 (59) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles..... | £14,995 |
| 2009 (59) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TO MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles..... | £13,995 |
| 2010 (10) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles..... | £12,995 |
| 2010 (10) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles..... | £11,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles..... | £11,495 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles..... | £10,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles..... | £10,995 |
| 2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles..... | £10,995 |
| 2010 (60) CITROEN NEMO 8V HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles..... | £9,495 |
| 2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles..... | £9,495 |
| 2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2010 (10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles..... | £7,995 |

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS

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|---|---------|
| 2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles..... | £26,000 |
| 2008 (08) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2006 (06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2005 (05) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles..... | £6,995 |

FIESTA

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| 2007 (57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVE/PURPLE/VIOLET, 3000 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2006 (56) FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 1600 miles, yes really under 2000 miles from new..... | £5,995 |

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

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|---|---------|
| 2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles..... | £10,995 |
| 2008 (58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2003 (53) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 44000 miles..... | £3,995 |

FOCUS ESTATES

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| 2006 (56) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles..... | £7,495 |
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RENAULT SCENIC

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| 2010 (59) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles..... | £14,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE DCI 130 FAP 5STR TO MPV AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 75TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 75TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT MPV AUTO, GOLD, 29000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2004 (54) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 27000 miles..... | £5,495 |

RENAULT

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| 2008 (08) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 75TR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2005 (05) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2006 (56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2008 (58) RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, GOLD, 17000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2007 (07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles..... | £5,495 |
| 2005 (05) RENAULT MODUS PRIVILEGE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles..... | £4,995 |

CHEVROLET

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| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2008 (58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 995 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2009 (09) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1200 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2008 (57) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles..... | £5,495 |
| 2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles..... | £4,995 |
| 2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles..... | £4,995 |
| 2007 (07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles..... | £4,995 |
| 2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles..... | £4,995 |
| 2006 (56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles..... | £4,995 |

HYUNDAI

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| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (56) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, RED, 4000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (58) HYUNDAI MATRIX COMFORT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles..... | £7,495 |
| 2009 (09) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2007 (57) HYUNDAI ACENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2006 (56) HYUNDAI GETZ COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2007 (57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, RED, 12000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2007 (07) HYUNDAI AMICA COX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles..... | £5,495 |

KIA

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| 2008 (58) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2009 (09) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2007 (57) KIA RIO ICE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles..... | £5,495 |

DAIHATSU

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| 2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles..... | £7,495 |
| 2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles..... | £6,995 |

FIAT

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| 2006 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles..... | £4,995 |
| 2007 (56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 25000 miles..... | £4,995 |

FUSION

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| 2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles..... | £5,995 |

CITROEN

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| 2010 (60) CITROEN NEMO 8V HDI TURBO MPV AUTO, RED, 100 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2008 (58) CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 13000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2002 (02) CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles..... | £2,995 |

MONDEO

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| 2006 (56) FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 24000 miles..... | £6,995 |
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CORSA

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| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles..... | £11,495 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles..... | £10,995 |
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles..... | £9,495 |
| 2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2009 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles..... | £8,495 |
| 2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles..... | £8,495 |
| 2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles..... | £8,495 |
| 2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles..... | £7,495 |
| 2008 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 9000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2005 (05) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI 16V 5DR TO HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 65000 miles..... | £3,995 |
| 1999 (V) VAUXHALL CORSA CDX 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles..... | £2,995 |

MAZDA

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| 2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles..... | £5,995 |

SUZUKI

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| 2009 (B) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 16V ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 13000 miles..... | £12,995 |
| 2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles..... | £9,495 |
| 2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles..... | £8,995 |

TOYOTA

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| 2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 X3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 16000 miles..... | £13,995 |
| 2007 (07) TOYOTA RAV-4 X3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 16000 miles..... | £13,995 |
| 2007 (6) TOYOTA RAV-4 X3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles..... | £13,995 |
| 2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, RED, 25000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) TOYOTA AVENTIS X3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2007 (07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2008 (08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (56) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 13000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2009 (59) TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 6000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2004 (54) TOYOTA YARIS T3 SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1750 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T3 SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 8000 miles..... | £6,295 |
| 2007 (57) TOYOTA AYGO VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles..... | £5,495 |
| 2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T3 SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles..... | £5,495 |

NISSAN

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| 2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 4WD SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles..... | £19,995 |
| 2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles..... | £14,495 |
| 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles..... | £13,995 |
| 2010 (10) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles..... | £11,995 |
| 2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles..... | £11,995 |
| 2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles..... | £10,995 |
| 2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 19000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles..... | £8,995 |
| 2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles..... | £8,495 |
| 2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles..... | £8,495 |
| 2010 (10) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 500 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2006 (06) NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2004 (04) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 miles..... | £4,995 |
| 2002 (02) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 19000 miles..... | £2,995 |

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

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|---|--------|
| 2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles..... | £9,995 |
| 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 10000 miles..... | £5,995 |

ASTRA ESTATES

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| 2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles..... | £5,995 |
| 2000 (X) VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 23000 miles..... | £2,995 |

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| | |
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| 2007 (07) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles..... | £8,495 |
| 2006 (56) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGNING, 16000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2008 (08) VAUXHALL AGILA CLUB MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles..... | £7,995 |
| 2007 (07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles..... | £6,995 |
| 2006 (56) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles..... | £6,495 |
| 2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles..... | £5,995 |
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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 26.6-55.4 (10.6-5.1), Extra Urban 41.5-70.6 (6.8-4.0), Combined 34.4-64.2 (8.2-4.4). The official CO2 emission figures for the range are 217-115g/km.

Savings quoted are against MRPP (Manufacturers Recommended Retail Price). Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. These offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered by 31st December 2010 and are available to retail customers only. These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £405). Example above excludes cost of optional metallic paint.

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Petrol injection from new Mondeo option

FORD'S newly-revised Mondeo line-up features a new high-tech 1.6-litre direct injection turbocharged petrol EcoBoost engine.

It follows a new trend that sees petrol engines fighting back against diesel through sporty performance, but with lower fuel consumption and emissions.

This new 160PS (158bhp) 1.6 unit joins the 2.0 EcoBoost engine launched earlier this year and in five-

door Mondeo hatchback format with a six-speed manual gearbox it can average more than 40mpg and emits 158g CO2/km.

In comparison, its obvious diesel rival in the Mondeo range, the 2.0TDCi, delivers more than 50mpg and 139g/km CO2, but offers little advantage in terms of benefit-in-kind company car taxation and acceleration and is around £1,000 dearer to buy.

Mazda improves diesel choice

MAZDA has given its family hatchback Mazda3 model a new year boost, with power, emission and fuel economy improvements to the 1.6 diesel version (from £16,505).

Arriving in January, 2011, this model meets more stringent Euro5 emissions regulations and features a new six-speed manual gearbox for better performance and economy.

This heavily revised model also features within an upgraded '3' range offering seven powertrains: three diesel and four petrol, including the high-performance 2.3-litre 260PS (258bhp) turbocharged



unit in the Mazda3 MPS hot hatch.

But it's the new-look diesel that is expected to further drive Dartford-based

Mazda UK's ambitions in the fleet sector, where the version's low emissions allow it to escape road tax in year one and incur just £30 a year thereafter. It can also average in the mid-60s for mpg.

Mazda's sales director Mark Cameron said: "We are winning significant conquest business with the Mazda3, both among private buyers and company car drivers."

"With improvements introduced on the Euro5 compliant version, the 1.6 diesel engine offers excellent value for money and, importantly, something different to the mainstream offerings in the small family car market."

Peugeot's coupé star boosts its ratings



PEUGEOT'S stunning RCZ Coupé has confirmed its desirability by outperforming used car valuations from motor market watchers at CAP.

A total of 15 examples of the new sporting icon, launched only this summer, averaged 103 per cent of the expected valuations at auction.

In the battle to secure this desirable stock, Peugeot dealers even went as high as £23,500 for a flagship example, which equated to 111 per cent of the CAP forecast.

Despite the economic climate, none of this comes as a great surprise; the RCZ is a proper sporting car for these times, being good to drive, economical and affordable – new or second-hand.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2LS 5dr: Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 51.4 (5.5), CO2 Emissions 119 g/km.

by
STEVELOADER

Are friends electric?

ELECTRIC cars are winning the battle to convince motorists that they are a value-for-money proposition, according to new research.

While some are put off by the high purchase cost of the first electric car models – even Mitsubishi's modest MiEV city car is nearly £29,000 – it seems many people see the money-saving potential of a battery-powered vehicle over its lifetime.

This turnaround from the gloomy outlook for electric power just a year ago follows a poll by TheGreenCarWebsite.co.uk.

This saw electric cars voted as having the lowest perceived lifetime costs thanks to their low 'refuelling'/recharging cost and tax perks, beating fuel-efficient diesels into second place.

Website visitors were asked "Which car type do you think will typically cost you the least to run over a lifetime?"

It produced the results in percentage terms:

Electric – 29 per cent

Diesel – 27 per cent

Hybrid – 20 per cent

LPG – 16 per cent

Petrol – eight per cent.

This confounds forecasts by market watchers and valuation guides that buyers feared being unable to recoup the high initial outlay through lower operating costs and robust second-hand values.

And the timing couldn't be better with the first genuinely practical electric cars due on the UK market in early 2011.

These include the five-door egg-like Mitsubishi and the closely-related Citroën C-Zero and Peugeot iOn, as well as the Nissan Leaf – a more conventional looking five-door hatchback, but still costing around £29,000.

Sales will be helped though by Government grants worth up to £5,000 each and the fact



CONVENTIONAL BUT ELECTRIC: the Nissan Leaf (left); charging the Mitsubishi MiEV (right); Peugeot's iOn (above) is related to the MiEV, incorporating expertise gathered from the electric version of the old Peugeot 106 electric model



that, once bought, electric cars will cost just 2p/mile to run and commuters will escape London congestion charges as well as road tax.

TheGreenCarWebsite.co.uk editor Faye Sunderland said: "January will see electric

cars start to realise their potential in this country and we fully expect that the grants available will be snapped up to allow consumers to access the low running costs and environmental appeal of electric cars.

"Businesses and private buyers will be

attracted to electric cars because, among other things, they promise such low costs to recharge.

"It makes the kind of money we spend on diesel and petrol seem obscene by comparison, and British consumers are frankly sick of being ripped off at the petrol pumps."

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| 04 04 Hyundai Getz | 10 10 Renault Wind 1.6 | 03 03 Renault Megane | 10 60 Seat Leon R | 03 03 Vauxhall Vectra | 10 60 Kia Sorento | 05 05 Ford StreetKa | 10 60 Peugeot 307 CC | 04 04 Peugeot 307 | 10 60 Kia Sorento | 07 07 Daihatsu Sirion | 09 59 BMW 1 Series M |
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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 16.5 (17.1) – 61.4 (4.6). Extra-urban: 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2). Combined: 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7). CO2 emissions: 274 – 98g/km.

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DrivingReview

by

STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Peugeot 207 SW

DURING the past year or so Peugeot has performed a volte face on MPV policy.

For years, one-box designs were left largely to sister brand Citroën and its ever-expanding line-up of Picasso people carriers.

Meanwhile, the senior partner continued to evolve its own 'space/sports wagon' or SW approach, which could trace its origins back to capacious, versatile multi-seat estate cars that it used to sell into the French rural community.

But Peugeot has dabbled lately with the MPV concept via its 3008 crossover and then committed further with the classy 5008.

Rather than being seen as a move away from the SW 'super estate', though, this really ought to be seen as a complement to it.

That impression certainly came through while driving the most junior SW, based on the 207 supermini and priced from £13,335.

You get everything expected from an MPV except for a higher driving position.

Counterbalancing that though is the Peugeot's car-like driving manners – some-

You don't need to be square to be an MPV



thing few MPVs can boast. For a car where space and convenience are a priority, the 207 SW also looks pretty chic; the rear pillar's backward rake disguises the car's boxy rear end beautifully, while most versions get an added touch of class thanks to aluminium roof rails.

It helps too that the overall design is based on one of the market's sharpest looking superminis; it really outdoes its most obvious rivals, the Renault Clio Sport Tourer.

And where Peugeot interiors sometimes used to fail to measure up to the exterior, the 207 range marked a major change of heart;

the 207 SW's cabin is a genuinely pleasant environment, helped here on our Sport spec test car by the huge 'Cielo' full-length glass roof that comes as standard.

The plastics are attractive and durable looking, the neat gauges have chrome bezels on higher grade models and there is a lot of classy alloy detail.

I was rather disappointed that, for a car designed to compete with MPVs, there was not more interior stowage – the glove compartment is small and I could not find any decent space for CDs.

However, the boot is large for this class with a low load threshold and fold flat rear seats for excellent load lugging, while head and legroom for rear passengers is excellent – the cabin remains airy even with the electrically-powered blind in place.

You also quickly forget minor grumbles when driving the 207 SW. The choice of engines for the SW is not as wide as that for the classy hatchback line-up, but you do get the pick of the bunch. Our car featured one of two excellent 1.6-litre diesel options; in this case it was the 92bhp motor – there is also a 112bhp – capable of averaging nearly 70mpg.

It is a typically smooth unit with a light five-speed gearbox which, allied with responsive steering, allows this little workhorse to carry over all the driver enjoyment of the main 207 hatchback range – how many equivalent MPVs can draw similar praise?

The most noticeable benefits are a comfortable ride, tenacious grip and poise on corners, where a conventional high-set MPV might heel.

There is a further trick up the SW's sleeve – though not tested here – a higher-riding, more rugged Outdoor version with chunky bumpers and wheel arches.

Personally, I prefer the looks of the 'standard' version rather than what looks suspiciously like a pseudo 4x4 marketing exercise.

Verdict: if you enjoy driving, but have to yield to practicality for work, family, sport or canine reasons this little Peugeot offers more than a small MPV, without any loss of style or street cred.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa SXi Range: urban 40.9 (6.9) - 45.6 (6.2), extra-urban 64.2 (4.4) - 70.6 (4.0), combined 53.3 (5.3) - 58.9 (4.8), CO₂ Emissions 127 - 124 g/km.

Deal available to private individuals only for orders between 01.10.10 and 03.01.11. Deals may not apply to all retailer stock and are subject to availability, correct at time of going to press. UK supplied vehicles only. Free metallic paint is only available in conjunction with Vauxhall Leasing offer and applies to selected models only. Figures shown are based on a non-maintenance contract hire package for the bailment of goods over 36 months, assuming a maximum of 6,000 miles per annum. All rentals are quoted inclusive of VAT. An advance rental of £597 inc. VAT is payable, followed by 35 regular monthly rentals of £199 inc. VAT. The quotation is subject to there being no changes in VAT or manufacturer list price. An excess mileage charge applies if the annual contract mileage is exceeded (4.41p per mile up to 6,000 miles and 6.38p per mile above 6,000 miles and above). The quotation is given subject to the vehicle being serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and the vehicle must be returned to Vauxhall Leasing in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Charges will be applied should these conditions not be met. All quotations are subject to availability, status, acceptance and agreement and guarantees may be required. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Contract hire provided by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Contract hire is subject to status, availability and conditions. A guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Full terms and conditions are available upon request. (Vaux103601)



DrivingPortfolio

PEUGEOT 207 SW SPORT HDI 92 163 £16,135

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Driving appeal (out of five) | ★★★★ |
| Image | ★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★ |
| How green? | ★★★★ |
| Road tax | £20/year (zero in year one) |
| Best rival | Renault Clio Sport Tourer |

TheVerdict



DON'T LIKE:

the lack of stowage in a car likely to be bought for cramming.



NOT SURE:

would-be small MPV buyers will see the SW delivering the same deal in a car-like form.



REALLY LIKE:

the 207 SW's mixture of French chic and versatility.

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ALFA ROMEO

159, 1.9 JTDm 16v LUSO, 2008, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags remote audio controls, 73000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 3.2 V6 JTS Q4 LUSO, 2006, abs brakes air con alloys cd player climate control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls height adj drivers seat, black, 30376 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDm 16v LUSO, 2008, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, alfa red, 70000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 330 Ci SPORT, 2003, alarm fitted alloy wheels electric windows multiple airbags reverse parking aid remote central locking front armrest rear armrest heated door mirrors, grey, 73000 miles, £8450, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 2.0 320d SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 81000 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 3.0 330 Ci SPORT, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 91030 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 316ti SE, 2004, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, blue, 59250 miles, £5450, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d M Sport Step Auto, 2008, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid, black, 12458 miles, £21000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X3, 2.0d, climate control, air con, cd player, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, electric windows, radio, stereo, 17" alloys, 4x4, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care, out of hours contact 07856 158119, aluminium silver, 54750 miles, £11995, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, VCDi LT FWD, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 21364 miles, £12000, Ashford, 084 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 23000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

NEON, LX Auto, 2000, gold, 80000 miles, £2495, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering remote central locking height adj drivers seat, blue, 45000 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering remote central locking height adj drivers seat, blue, 45000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multipurpose Desire HDi, cv50Jf, air conditioning, parking sensor, electric mirrors, electric windows, twin sunroofs, twin air bags, colour coded body, central locking, immobiliser, cd player, beige metallic, 40000 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi With Side Loading Door, km08vou, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, ply-lined, side load door, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, radio, white, 34000 miles, £5000, Sittingbourne, 01795 403295 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, kr07xoy, side load door, cd player, electric windows, electric mirrors, immobiliser, remote central locking, gpl lined, gah equipment, electric standby available if required, over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 27000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

C1, VT (Plus Delivery), 2010, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 10 miles, £6200, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, black, 50 miles, £10980, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6, 2008, black, 50 miles, £19000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C4, hdi, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels electric windows power steering remote central locking, black, 1500 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PICASSO, SX, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking electric windows power steering, metallic gold, 58000 miles, £3500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PICASSO, 2.0 HDi EXCLUSIVE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, tbc, 91000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RELAY, 1100 2.0 HDi Refrigerated Chiller, 405180, white, 0 miles, £4595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.2 Pop 3dr Hatch, wm09pgk, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, crossover black metallic, 20110 miles, £7995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Lounge 3dr Hatch, gl10svk, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, side airbags, electrodoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, audio remote control, white metallic, 200 miles, £10865, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Multijet Active, 2008, black metallic, 25000 miles, £7700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Dynamic, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning diesel electric windows immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking twin sliding doors, various, 6 miles, £13200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, Active Eco, 2010, black, 900 miles, £7044, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PANDA, 100 HP, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser mp3 player power steering sports seats trip computer twin airbag remote central locking, various, 10 miles, £9100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2, 2008, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec, 2007, tonic, 9000 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec, 2007, tonic, 14000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6 Style, 2008, avalon, 8000 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 LX, 2004, aquarius, 56400 miles, £4495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec Blue 1.4 TDCi, 2008, moonst silver, 17000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec, 2010, metallic vision, 14324 miles, £12154, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Titanium, 2010, metallic panther black, 13365 miles, £16710, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 S, 2007, abs brakes air con cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat space, blue, 21000 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, black, 56 miles, £16100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0, 2008, black, 44 miles, £16100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARENS, 2.0 TD Sr, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £16200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CEED, 2.0, 2008, red, 55 miles, £16750, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, 2.0, 2008, black, 55 miles, £16750, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CEED, 1.6 CRDi 3, 2009, abs brakes alloys cd player electric windows half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, £5257 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

RIO, 1.3 LE, 2005, cd player central locking immobiliser power steering twin airbags adjustable steering column 3x3 point height adj drivers seat, black, 31326 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RIO, Rio3 1.4 Auto, 2009, abs brakes air con diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering deactivation switch isofix child seat points 3x3 point space, red, 12000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RIO, 1.3 LE, 2005, cd player central locking immobiliser power steering twin airbags adjustable steering column 3x3 point height adj drivers seat, black, 31326 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SEDONA, 2.5 V6 SE 7 SEATS, 2003, abs brakes air con alloy cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking electric sunroof, amerald green, 51152 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, 1.8 S Touring, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking immobiliser, blue, 100000 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

EVORA, 3.5 V6 SPORT PACK - SPORTS, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering sports seats xenon headlamps remote central locking, ardent red, 900 miles, £50000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 S Touring, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering twin airbags, persian blue, 7706 miles, £32000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 S Performance Touring, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering sports seats, carbon grey, 6676 miles, £35000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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2003 53 Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 121,170 miles, Metallic Black, Sat Nav, Bluetooth Handsfree Leather seat trim, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Full Electric Pack, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Alarm, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Climate Control, Full Service History, Sports seats, Tinted glass. **NOW £3,995**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 102,941 miles, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, Metallic Grey, 4 Owners. Heated door mirrors, ABS, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Leather upholstery, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Driver airbag, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Air conditioning, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator, Electric mirrors, Remote locking **NOW £2,495**

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R Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0i, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 1998, 66,678 miles, Black, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Immobiliser, Part Service History, Remote locking, Service indicator, Electric door mirrors, ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column, Sunroof, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, CD, Cruise control, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Foglights, Headrests, Headlight washers, Heated seats, Metallic paintwork, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Steel wheels, Sunroof, Tinted glass, Wheel trims. **NOW £1,595**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

FRED DIBNAH – legendary Lancastrian steeplejack, engineer and unlikely TV star – would have loved a chat with our Big Interview subject, Tim Allen. Tim and his two brothers run Ashford-based engineering group MJ Allen, a beacon of hope as Great Britain tries to restore industrial muscle that has all but withered away.



STEVE LOADER BUSINESS EDITOR
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KEY PARTNERS**SUPPORTED BY**

STORM: Port of Dover chief executive Bob Goldfield (inset, left) has defended privatisation plans after criticism from Kelvin MacKenzie, above

Port caught in glare of The Sun's 'attack dog'

PORT managers at Dover and their controversial privatisation plans have come under fire from outspoken columnist Kelvin MacKenzie.

The former editor of The Sun and now the national tabloid's most ferocious attack dog, responded vigorously after Port of Dover chief executive Bob Goldfield accused him of "talking bollocks" when he questioned the Dover scheme.

MacKenzie told readers on Thursday: "That may be true, Mr Goldfield, but I do know why you and your ho-hum management are so keen to get your hands on this business."

"Under the new ownership they will receive a shares package worth anything between £4 million to £16 million. Why don't you justify that payout in public, Mr Goldfield?"

"Almost worse than that, the management has agreed to pay £100,000 of your money – remember you, the taxpayer, own this asset – to hire

By **STEVE LOADER**steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

the PR company Bell Pottinger to lobby for the sale of this business."

He added that it was a scandal and Dover people should be protesting about it, adding that the port was "massively profitable" making £25m on a £53m turnover.

And his parting shot was a battle cry in favour of the rival People's Port proposal championed by local Conservative MP Charlie Elphicke: "The sooner the People's Port is owned by the people the better. And the great news is that when you get your hands on it, you can throw Mr Goldfield and his colleagues out of the window."

The Sun man's outburst follows an exclusive Business Week interview in which Mr Goldfield strenuously denied suggestions that he and his managers were pushing the port sale so that

they could walk away with a multi-million-pound jackpot.

"Chance would be a fine thing," he insisted. "There are no millions here."

He added that no member of port staff could hope for more than £300,000 via an initial share valuation and they would be unable to unlock that value for three years.

The privatisation scheme is stalled while the Department of Transport considers a dispute between the port and the ferry companies over their tariffs for 2010.

The companies are also due to meet Mr Goldfield and his team early next week to discuss the disputed fees for 2011, which the port wants to set above average inflation.

It will be the first meeting of the Ferry Port Users' Group for months and the operators continue to seethe about £60m of their cash held by the harbour board as a levy towards £85m of new berthing infrastructure they have called for.

SeaFrance's future

SEAFRANCE – one of the main ferry operators using the Port of Dover – will have its future decided on December 15.

It is then that owner SNCF, the state-owned French rail operator, will open four sealed bids for the ferry line, which recently axed half its workforce and is in administration despite a 120 million euro injection earlier this year.

Sources on the French side of the Channel say Brittany Ferries, which operates longer routes further west, will win the race.

P&O Ferries – SeaFrance's rival on the Dover-Calais crossing – ruled itself out of any bid some time ago and will add two large new ferries to the route early next year. And industry watchers are not expecting a move from DFDS while it digests its recent deal to absorb Dover's third big operator, NorfolkLine.

This leaves three other likely bidders: French-based utilities giant Veolia – formerly Vivendi; Louis Dreyfus Armateurs (LD Lines); and Eurotunnel.

• Business Week Comment on the SeaFrance race – see inside.



Picture: PIOTR KUCZYNSKI

Comment

TRY AS it might, Dover can't escape the limelight for long. So, as we await the outcome of controversial port privatisation plans, we also approach a decision on the future of a leading ferry operator (see front page).

SeaFrance has been sinking for some time as ferries suffer the twin pressures of a dwindling market and a resurgent Eurotunnel. Now in administration, we hear that there are four bidders for the business – all but one being French. Brittany Ferries seems the best fit as it already has viable UK-France routes and the French media is already hailing it as favourite to win, but the firm will be all too aware that revenues are tight.

The Louis Dreyfus Armateurs shipping line is also said to be in the running, though it burned its fingers in a bid to become a fourth power on the Dover-Calais route and its two-ship operation was axed earlier this year.

Eurotunnel – partially French-owned – is the surprise package. Admittedly, it would secure the SeaFrance share of cross-Channel freight business and has plenty of spare capacity for train movements.

But if it were to lay off the SeaFrance vessels, this would surely help remaining ferry giants P&O – which has two big new ships arriving for 2011 – and the revitalised NorfolkLine/DFDS. And so to the dark horse, French utilities group Veolia which, like all in its sector, has been able to make money while most businesses have been squeezed.

It could be a formidable opponent to current operators above and below the waves, with powerful resources in-house and good borrowing power.

And let's not forget the French government's influence as owner of rail giant SNCF which, in turn, owns SeaFrance and has pumped more than 100 million euros into the stricken company over the past year, without a murmur from the EU. That's something France always seems to manage when other EU nations don't – how many times has Renault been rescued by Government cash?

Yes, maintaining a French ferry line on the Dover-Calais route is a matter of national pride so there is a great deal of Gallic horsetrading being done as we approach decision day on December 15.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER

Dealership motors to national award

MANAGERS at motor retailer Lifestyle Europe in Tunbridge Wells have become part of a ground-breaking nationwide management and leadership solution.

Sales managers Adrian Cook and Mark Higgins joined the Automotive Management Accreditation (AMA) programme operated by the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) – the first accreditation scheme to address managerial needs and personal development in the sector.

Mr Higgins said: "It offers managers in the automotive industry a chance to develop their skills and gain recognition, as well as maintain the highest customer service standards. It is a great achievement to gain this accreditation, a testament to the support and training I have received at Lifestyle, helping me build a successful career."

The IMI had established that managers often lacked support towards becoming effective leaders, at a time

when the motor trade faced great challenges and change. But Lifestyle has embraced staff training and was one of the first to get involved with the Government-backed Women in Work initiative.

Chairman Marc Matthew said the company was an enthusiastic backer of the AMA programme: "It has been designed to measure the competence of managers and is something that benefits them personally, as well as our business and customers."

Centre's green future

GROWING demand for skills in the renewable energy sector is reflected by a new centre in Dartford, **writes Steve Loader**.

The Renewables Training Centre is run by Able Skills and backed by Mitsubishi Electric UK, Polypipe, Domus and Heating Plumbing Supplies (HPS).

The building and construction sector can buy on-site courses to top-up on and diversify into a sector set to boom as belts tighten and environmental pressures increase.

Backed by an undisclosed finance package put in place by NatWest, the centre offers nationally recognised qualifications in green technologies, including solar, heat pumps, rainwater harvesting, grey water recycling, and underfloor heating. Courses on biomass systems, micro wind turbines, heat recovery and air conditioning will be added in the new year.

The centre, on the Riverside Industrial Estate, is a new flagship for Able Skills and the firm's head of renewables, Jed Smith, said the investment underlined a commitment to providing green energy skills.

He said: "We have worked hard on establishing strong relationships with suppliers and merchants for the benefit of customers and are grateful to NatWest for financially supporting this project. It's important the new generation of green energy installers work to the highest standards and have a support network to ensure the customer experience is a positive one."

The centre also has the capacity to supply mobile training using its suite of six mobile training rigs for solar photo-voltaic, thermal and heat pump technologies.



ON THE ROOF: Mayor of Dartford Cllr Pat Coleman (left), Able Skills director Gary Measures and NatWest's Tony Knowles (right) at the training centre

By teaming up with HPS, courses can also be bought 'over the counter' through the supplier's branches. HPS sales director Peter Wilson said: "It's important as an independent merchant to work closely to maximise the benefits that a dedicated training centre can offer the trade in this period of growth in the renewable sector."

NatWest relationship manager Tony Knowles said it had been an exciting and interesting project, bringing eco-friendly skills to the Kent construction industry.

He said: "The project is impressive and NatWest is proud to be associated with a company that demonstrates forward thinking in a sector that is growing in demand."



JIMJAMS: Change of dress code at HolidayExtras.com

Powered by Pudsey

BOSSES at award-winning holiday firm HolidayExtras.com pitched two top-of-the-range cars into an in-house raffle to raise cash for the Children In Need appeal.

The use of CEO Matthew Pack's £100,000 Porsche 911 Cabrio and chairman Steve Lawrence's £70,000 Range Rover Vogue for the weekend helped towards £1,500 raised on the day at the Hythe firm.

Some of the cash also came from a change of dress code – pyjamas. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed and those who flouted the ruling were fined in aid of Children In Need.

All the events were organised by Sarah Smith and Sara Stephens and included a cake stall and a lunch.

Other raffle prizes included a two-day spa break, theatre tickets, a Christmas hamper and a professional make-up session, but the big lure was the two bosses' cars.

Mr Pack said: "Everyone had a lot of fun and entered into the spirit of the day. I'm happy to give the Porsche away for a weekend in aid of such a good cause."

Winner of the open-top Porsche was senior content editor Jon Clarke, who is waiting for better weather before he chooses his weekend loan.

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■ INTREPID staff from Tunbridge Wells-based Cripps Harries Hall completed the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge to raise £2,800 for the law firm's charity of the year, Help for Heroes. The challenge involves the UK's three tallest mountains – Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon – and was completed over a weekend, including a night-time ascent of Scafell Pike. The team was Tom Bourne, Natalie Mulholland, Steve Horscroft, Caroline Isherwood, Mark Cheesman, Juyma Sanchez, Laura Kemp, Chris Stevens, Ajay Rana, Tim Moorin and designated driver Stuart Bourne. Senior partner Michael Stevens said: "Well done to the whole team, a very impressive achievement for a very worthy cause."

■ THE Royal Harbour Hotel has scooped the Best Small Hotel accolade at the 2010 Oldie Travel Awards. Proprietor James Thomas bought the Ramsgate hotel in 1999 after working for London hotels including The Savoy. The award recognises the transformation he has made from rundown business to luxury B&B, comprising adjoining Georgian townhouses dating from 1799. The Royal overlooks Ramsgate harbour – many of the 19 bedrooms have sea views – and it has become famous for generous breakfasts.

■ WEB guru Clare Medden contributed to new book Create a Successful Website, which quickly became an Amazon bestseller. The Bexleyheath mum, who runs Medden Web Design, joined other experts on the project after a chance meeting last year with author Paula Wynne. Clare said: "It's been great fun working with Paula. I hope my advice will, in some small way, help others create a successful website."

■ NEVILLE Gaunt has taken over from Jim Beattie as chairman of Swanley and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr Gaunt is also secretary of the local Federation of Small Businesses branch and founder of First Steps to Employment, a local company employing the under-24s. The appointment coincides with a recruiting drive for the chamber's area, villages in the north of Sevenoaks district as well as Swanley. To find out more, email swanleychamber@aol.com or call 0203 239 6330.

■ MARDEN-based logistics firm Brooks Transport has been recognised for achieving the highest possible gold standards of customer service by international network Palletways. The accolade notes delivery times and health and safety compliance. Spokesman Anthony Brooks said: "Our gold status is testament to the hard work of all my colleagues at Brooks Transport. The Palletways partnership league provides a benchmark for consistent service levels and demonstrates our commitment to both quality and cost-efficiency." Palletways has 270 depots across the UK and Europe and MD Craig Hibbert said: "Brooks Transport has shown an outstanding commitment to the network."

■ DEAN and Dyball Civil Engineering, a division of Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering, has moved its eastern region office 12 miles north-east from Maidstone to Sittingbourne. The firm had used the Maidstone base for 13 years but this is now being redeveloped. Regional director Danny Frost said: "Our new office at Sittingbourne will provide us with a better working environment to maintain a presence in the area for years to come."

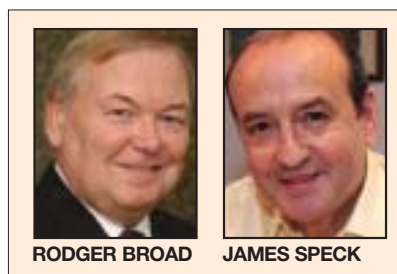
Flexibility versus innovation

BRITAIN may still be reckoned one of the world's best places to do business, but that view drew mixed responses from two Kent business leaders, **writes Steve Loader.**

The Doing Business report from the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank had ranked us at number four, beating the USA and our European neighbours. Singapore topped the annual report's table for the fifth consecutive year, followed by Hong Kong and New Zealand.

The feel-good factor was also enhanced by the Government promising to create an enterprise visa, allowing more UK businesses to be set up by foreigners.

But Institute of Directors' regional chief Rodger Broad was not convinced. "It would be premature for the Government to congratulate itself," he said. "In years past, labour market flexibility was a key component of the World Bank's analysis, yet it has vanished



RODGER BROAD

JAMES SPECK

from this year's rankings.

"As shown over the last three Doing Business reports, employing workers in the UK has become harder every year since 2007. Labour market flexibility has slipped from 17th in 2007, to 21st in 2008, to 28th in 2009 and 35th in 2010.

"The World Bank's ranking must therefore be taken with a pinch of salt, since it leaves out one of the most serious barriers the Government places on the private sector."

But Kent Science Park director James Speck welcomed the vote of confidence.

He said: "The UK has always punched above its weight when it comes to business. We have been responsible for technologies that have driven the global economy for centuries: steam, telecoms, the jet engine, television – the internet was also the brainchild of a Briton."

"Too often you hear people decrying the lack of enterprise and innovation, but it is still alive and kicking in places like Kent Science Park."

"We are home to world leaders in pharmaceuticals and healthcare, with companies developing treatments for multiple sclerosis and pain relief, as well as those serving the aerospace industry. And we continue to receive inquiries from overseas businesses looking to set up in the UK."

"The challenge is how we protect and retain our global competitiveness, and that requires Government intervention to cut red tape and boost growth. This will send a strong message to overseas firms that we are an attractive proposition for international business."



PLEASED: Tom Price
at Westwood Cross

The centre of attention

LAND Securities, owner of Thanet's Westwood Cross shopping and leisure centre, scooped the title Property Company of the Year – Retail at this year's Estates Gazette Awards.

The group saw off a strong field of retail developers and landlords to take the award and was praised for its innovative and vigorous approach to developing retail centres.

Westwood Cross is one of a portfolio of 25 shopping centres and 20 retail parks owned by Land Securities across the UK.

The Thanet site's general manager, Tom Price, said: "This accolade recognises Land Securities' continuing determination to create and achieve great customer experiences."

"The company provides UK retailers and shoppers with the best service possible and the highest standard of commercially and environmentally sustainable retail centres in the UK."

M&D reaches a milestone

PREPARATIONS are in hand to celebrate the centenary next year of the Maidstone & District bus company – now part of Arriva.

The milestone date is March 22 and a special event, M&D 100, will form part of the annual Transport Heritage Show on April 9 at the County Showground, Detling. This will mark M&D's dominance across west Kent over 80 years.

Arriva's Richard Lewis said: "We're pleased to support this as the heritage of our company is important and many employees, including myself, have fond memories of working for M&D."

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NORTHDOWN II: Due for completion by mid-July, next year

Eureka moment as park's new growth phase starts

QUADRANT Estates, developer of Eureka Park in Ashford, has started a new phase at the site, claimed to be the first speculative office development in Kent since the recession.

Underlining fast-growing confidence in many business quarters, Northdown II is being built by Kier Group and comprises two buildings of 10,292 and 15,675 sq ft respectively due for completion by mid-July, 2011, though Quadrant's original schedule proposed a finish in late 2009.

Director Tristram Gethin said: "We are extremely excited to be delivering another phase of offices to the market in Kent. We are receiving more inquiries than we have been able to provide for and are already in pre-let discussions over a variety of potential lettings."

And he was quick to acknowledge why his company had been bold enough to shake-up the post-

recession office building lull: "Infrastructure developments in the area such as high-speed rail, improvements at junction nine of the M20, where Eureka Park is based, together with the Drovers roundabout upgrades, have improved access tremendously – further good news for companies looking to relocate here."

"We have many employees commuting from London and for those who come by road we are bringing forward a 300-space car park."

Buoyant demand on Eureka Park is also illustrated by the fact that space in the original three-part 51,000 sq ft Northdown development nearby is now fully taken, and managed office specialist Basepoint has bought a 1.64-acre plot to create a new managed 40,000 sq ft business centre.

The remaining three shops at the park's retail centre, Eureka Place, have also now been taken.

Very much the

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Engineering and manufacturing – once Britain's bedrock – is tipped for revival in the UK after the false dawn of reliance on the banking and service industries. So we spoke to the MD of one of Kent's jewels in this once forgotten sector, Tim Allen of the Ashford-based MJ Allen group. Business editor STEVE LOADER hears how good ideas, diversification and a 'can-do' attitude can deliver growth



TIM ALLEN

TIM Allen hates the over-used expression 'one-stop shop', but admits cheerfully that it's the best way to describe the family firm.

"There's no greater buzz than someone showing us a drawing and asking, 'Can you make this?' and then us presenting them with the finished article. If anyone out there has a design for the next great widget, I'd love to speak to them."

No wonder MJ Allen is a first call for anyone producing prototypes or limited runs – "Car clubs, for instance, will contact us about making a run of engine blocks or some other key component," he said. "But there aren't many companies in the UK – which taught the world how to make this stuff – that can now do what we do."

And while there is much that is traditional about what the company does, it doesn't wait to be caught out

commercially by new developments, so the group's Ashford HQ reveals several people working on computer screens, setting up and testing complex processes before they are allowed to go 'live'.

There is also a modern array of machines that can rotate and machine whole components under the eagle-eye of a human attendant – at £350,000 each, such plant is kept working long hours to recoup outlay.

But expert craftsmen remain in many areas such as mould-making and its Mather and Smith arm, which specialises in bespoke ironwork or remaking traditional gates, railings and bollards. It also refurbished sections of Barnes Bridge over the Thames in just six weeks to smarten it up for the 2010 Boat Race.

The MJ Allen group now comprises 13 companies, assembled from organic growth as well as acquisition, having been established in Ashford's Victoria Street in 1958 by Tim's father Mike, whose other two sons, Jonathan and Michael Jr, also work for the group. The original company moved to Ashford's Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate in 1966 where – after some expansion and re-development – it now employs 90 of the group's 235 staff.

THERE are also production sites in Swanley – which makes high-precision tooling and machines – and an automotive division in Nottingham, plus sales and warehousing sites in Chicago, USA, and the Netherlands.

Despite the economic slowdown, group annual sales remained steady at nearly £24 million during 2008 and 2009 and are on course for £25m this year. A sign of confidence is £600,000 of new machinery just installed at Ashford.

The turnover powerhouse is the automotive components division, worth nearly £15m a year, mostly acquired in 1985 when MJ Allen took over part of a failed company in Nottingham.

The firm has become a major supplier of aftermarket replacement clutches and

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BIG AND CLEVER: Precision engineering is one of MJ Allen's specialities



finished article

brake discs, but where much of the work was in re-manufacturing, most stock is new production sourced from the Far East – an all too familiar story for UK industry, admitted Tim, 49.

ANOTHER automotive venture, Countytrac at Ashford, shows the group's innovative side by generating some £1.25m of sales from an all-wheel-drive system for the Ford Transit.

It is a near perfect example of how a small engineering firm should operate, as Tim explained: "We took the idea to Ford. They liked it and while they didn't fund it, they gave us a lot of technical support and the 'big brother' backing if the patent – which we share – was to be infringed, and we get a good chunk of regular business and can still sell a variation of the product elsewhere if we wish."

"We are working on generation three, designed to keep this area of our business going until 2023 at least. If demand for this type of vehicle became thousands, then it would be worth one of the big boys going into competition with us and we couldn't compete, but it just isn't viable for them at present."

MJ Allen also produces gearbox covers for Scarab at Marden, a world leader in truck-based roadsweepers, and also makes parts for giant American agricultural machinery producer, Case New Holland.

Other regular work includes large components for German MAN marine engines, medical machinery casings and even light-weight aluminium gun mountings for naval vessels.

Tim said these underline a balance he tries to maintain between sub-contract work and the group's own and, potentially more profitable, products: "You need both to ensure consistent demand on your facilities and your big investments. I'm on the lookout all the time and much of it comes down to relationships; getting to know your customer. We were at Ford recently, for instance, to discuss the AWD system, overheard that they had a problem with something else and came up with a solution – they're happy and we're happy. We think there will always be a demand in the UK for this kind of quick-response, high-quality engineering."

"You do feel you are being hemmed in sometimes though. We used to think in terms of 10-year plans, then it was five and now I wouldn't dare try to call where we will be in two years' time."

Does he think industry is bound up with too much red tape? "Paperwork is

always a pain," he admitted. "But the ISO standards and health and safety regulations are there for good reasons and it matters to customers."

"And I genuinely believe it's good business. It saves money if you run a tidy organisation with good practice and as little waste as possible. And insurance premiums are lower."

He is pleased with progress on eliminating waste, from an economic as well as ecological aspect: "We re-use 85-90 per cent of sand from our castings, for instance, which saves buying in more, and on transport and sending to and paying for landfill. Waste iron is recycled, of course, and our furnace runs on reclaimed engine oil. We just try to be green wherever possible."

Does he ever wish he had not gone into the family firm? "No, but I wanted to be a journalist originally. My uncle was on Fleet Street and would regale me with great stories."

BUT along with English, he also wanted to study economics and so left Norton Knatchbull School to take an all-round course in business studies at Canterbury Tech: "After that [1978], I was wondering how to fund the petrol for my scooter, when Dad suggested I come into the works to earn some cash. I started by pushing a wheelbarrow for the shop steward. I loved it and never looked back."

"Dad never pressured us into the business, but he made it easy for us to come in and do bits and pieces. I do realise that I was very fortunate."

Mike Allen, 73 and retired, now divides his time between homes in Kent and Florida and his boat, while his successor still relishes the everyday challenge of the family firm and remains upbeat about the manufacturing sector.

"As a nation, we are not good at talking ourselves up. We tend to look for and encourage the media to talk us down," Tim said.

He also echoes a commonly held view that firms should share and co-operate more than before, since their biggest rivals are overseas rather than in neighbouring towns:

"People have talked about it a lot lately, but we need more of a community of manufacturers. We feel isolated in this part of the world anyway."

Tim is married with two sons and lives at Smarden. He is a music fan and used to play bass with a local group Beat The Jeep. He still makes the pilgrimage to Glastonbury every year and especially the John Peel tent, where many new bands break through.

TIM ALLEN'S CV

1978 – completes OND in Business Studies and joins the family firm later adding an HNC and working his way up through various posts to succeed his father as MD.



TRACTION: The AWD Transit venture with Ford provides regular business for the MJ Allen group

TIM'S TOP TIPS

- If you look after the business it will look after you – "One of Dad's sayings and some people might dismiss it as simplistic, but you do need to just keep a tight grip – it's surprising how quickly costs can spiral and risk taking the company down."

- Network – "It's true that the more people I meet in business, the luckier I get."

- Have a go – "Why not? Never turn down a challenge – some of our best business has come from a good idea and simply going for it."



BUOYANT: Marine engine castings for industrial giant MAN helps power vessels such as the SeaCat



RAILINGS: Expert craftsmanship from the Mather and Smith arm of the firm, with bespoke ironwork



FAMILY FIRM: Tim Allen outside the company's Ashford premises



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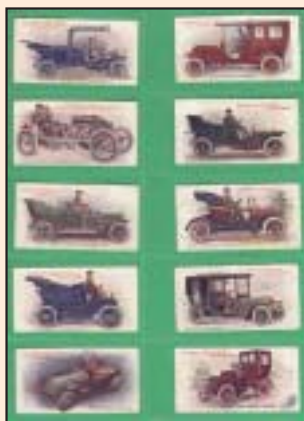
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How 1950s collector became a card sharp

FORMER accountant George Rogers' new career caught fire after a decision to buy and sell rare cigarette cards.

Having turned 60, he wanted to subtract the debits and credits from his life and add a hobby to his career column. That was two years ago, and he has now launched a website – www.taddyclown.co.uk – listing thousands of vintage cards, prints and playing cards.

The name was inspired by London cigarette maker James Taddy and Co, which traded until 1920 and produced a much sought-after card set called Clowns and Circus Artistes.

He said: "If life was all about money,

I'd still be an accountant. But I'm fed up with the Inland Revenue and VAT men and all the rest of it. This is my career change and I am determined to make it work. The website has about 3,000 items and is growing.

"My children have left home and this is all about a bit of me time. My wife doesn't like cards much, but she does help out with organising auctions."

Cigarette cards used to be big thing to collect for adults and youngsters alike but, like many trends, interest faded although enthusiasts remain.

George, from Canterbury, said: "As a child of the 1950s, I became a collector – like many of my peers. It start-



ed with stamps, coins, beer mats and matchboxes. But about 30 years ago, I was introduced to cigarette cards and life hasn't been the same since.

"They started in 1883 and finished in

1940. With the outbreak of war they couldn't waste material, and the cards never started again properly."

George has run the East Kent Cigarette Card Club for almost 25 years and has held more than 200 auctions in that time.

As an example of values that can be achieved, a complete set of 25 cards called Motors and issued by Lambert and Butler in 1908, costs £575, while a 1900 set of 20 cards called Actresses, from the same brand, is worth £600.

Top of the pile is a complete set of 50 cards called Cricketers, issued by F&J Smith in 1912, and worth £650.

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Helpful Banking

College finance chief Mark praised again

HADLOW College finance chief Mark Lumsdon-Taylor was the runner-up for this year's Accountancy Age Public Sector Finance Director of the Year award, *writes Steve Loader*.

Following Hadlow's elevation to 'outstanding' status by education watchdog Ofsted earlier this year, the Kent agricultural college's director of finance and resources had been on course for an unprecedented second receipt of the award – he landed the honour in 2007.

Hadlow is now recognised as the UK's third-best specialist college and Mr Lumsdon-Taylor, 35, remains determined to take it to number one – a long way from the site's apparently doomed state when he arrived as a financial consultant in 2002.

He turned his back on a promising City career to then take a full-time post onsite, marrying financial reality with educational excellence and creating a blueprint for other colleges to follow.

A college official said: "Far from accepting that cuts must result in a reduction in the quality and aspirations of the core business, in this case education, he has reviewed the new operating environment, invested in new – and expanded existing – commercial activ-



MARK LUMSDON-TAYLOR: Runner-up

ities, developed new and effective partnerships and sought new and innovative business opportunities."

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor was recently the subject of a Business Week Big Interview and explained his dedication to the Hadlow cause as: "I always wanted to do something that made a difference", adding that he had already shied from one soft option professionally by declining the chance to run the family firm back in his home city of Sunderland.

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Rugby legend Jason rewards loyal clients



WINNING WAYS: Rugby legend Jason Leonard, left, with Nick Paterno of McBrides

WORLD Cup-winning England rugby player Jason Leonard OBE was the star attraction at accountancy firm McBrides' client celebration, *writes Steve Loader*.

The evening was organised by the Sidcup-based firm as a thank you to clients – a wide cross-section of small to medium enterprises across Kent and the South East – for the loyalty shown during McBrides' management buyout (MBO) in June.

But former prop Leonard – still the world's most capped forward – also helped with the other objective of the evening at London's Glaziers' Hall, which was winning in business. He shared insights with the 150 guests on the essential qualities of a winner, the secrets of motivating a team, and how techniques used to achieve sporting success can be applied to business.

Nick Paterno, McBrides' managing partner, said the rugby star's speech echoed what the company managed to do this year with the MBO: "We achieved our goal of taking control of our business, and this celebration was about rewarding clients for their loyalty during that time. We believe our clients deserve the best and we hope the event went

some way to demonstrating how much we value our relationship with them and how excited we are about the future."

McBrides also used the event to launch a new website with a lifecycle planner. Mr Paterno said: "The website has a new look and feel from what's gone before, reflecting our renewed focus on owner-managed businesses. It feels great to be in charge of our own destiny and to pass on the benefits of being our own boss to clients."

"Our regained independence gives us the ability to respond quickly to help our clients in what remains a very difficult and uncertain economic environment."

"Clients who receive our payroll services are already seeing the benefits in terms of real savings due to our move to a lower cost-base. We will continue to introduce similar initiatives where possible."

McBrides had reached a crossroads in 2004 when it was larger than most local rivals, a regional giant, but not big enough to compete with top 30 national players and in an increasingly competitive market.

It opted to join forces with Vantis – an alliance of similar firms – and became Vantis Sidcup, but the new structure never really gelled and culminated in a series of MBOs including this year's rebirth of McBrides.



MIKE SARGEANT: Asset allocation

Sargeant joins the RIM ranks

REEVES Investment Management has appointed former Pharon IDA managing director Mike Sargeant as investment director.

He holds an MBA from the University of Kent, is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments and an associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers. Mr Sargeant joins the senior management team at RIM, responsible for the asset allocation and fund selection of the company's discretionary portfolios.

RIM has more than £70 million invested across three main investment strategies: income, balanced and growth. RIM is part of accountancy group Reeves and Co, which has offices in Canterbury, Chatham, Gatwick and London.

Cabot answers the call

CABOT Financial Group was again chosen as one of the official call centres for the BBC's Children In Need appeal.

Volunteers staffed the phones and took donations from 6.30pm on the Friday until the early hours of Saturday, taking more than £116,000 in public donations through their call centre at Kings Hill, West Malling.

This contributed to more than £18 million raised nationally on the night. Many Cabot Financial employees, including executives and directors, were involved and answered some 3,820 calls.

They also organised and took part in a host

of fund-raising activities for the main event, including a fancy dress day, Miss Cabot 2010 – a male-only catwalk competition – a cracker eating contest, two hardy volunteers running for miles on a treadmill dressed as a lion and gorilla; and leg and back waxing for the bravest male employees.

Executive directors also ran a refreshments operation – Cabot's Café.

Group chief executive Ken Maynard said the firm was delighted to be asked again to support the appeal, and added: "The success could not have been achieved without our employees giving up their valuable time to raise money for such a worthy cause."

"Everybody gave their all to make the event as successful and as much fun as possible."

Proud

"I am extremely proud of our employees' generosity, both financial and personal, leading up to the event, gathering more than £2,500 for Children In Need from their own fund-raising."

Cabot Financial was founded in 1998 and is a market leader in consumer debt purchase in the UK.

Its principal investor is Citigroup Capital UK along with Barclays Private Equity.



CABOT'S CAFÉ: Chief executive Ken Maynard (left) and director Tony Lazell serve coffee and tea for employees



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NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on commercial property/facilities

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** DESPITE racing with two broken ribs, Sweden's Erik Carlsson won the RAC rally at Brands Hatch.

Carlsson suffered his injuries in an accident just days before the start of the race, but he and his English navigator, Stuart Turner, were the only duo to complete the rally without incurring any penalty points on the road sections.

Driving a Saab three-cylinder-two-stroke engine, Carlsson came out on top after a 2,000-mile race which began in Blackpool and took the drivers as far north as Inverness, before the finish in Kent.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** DAVE Shearer struck twice in the final 10 minutes to give Gillingham a 3-1 win over Wolves at Molineux.

Gills went in front in the second-half only to be pegged back within five minutes by the home side, but with the game seemingly heading for a draw Shearer found the net in the 81st and 89th minutes to seal a surprise win for the Kent side.

Barry Fry faced a backlash from angry Maidstone United fans after transfer-listing his England semi-pro international centre back John Glover (father of present day Maidstone captain Simon) and branding him a "misfit".

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** ONE of the most calamitous own goals in living memory saw Gillingham claim a stunning 2-1 win over Blackburn at Ewood Park.

The Gills looked set for a hammering when they fell behind after just 11 minutes, when Matt Jansen set up Mark Hughes to put Rovers 1-0 up.

But having withstood a barrage from the home side, Gillingham drew level on 42 minutes when Nicky Southall's cross was flicked on by Paul Shaw and Andy Hesselthaler drilled in the equaliser.

The game's defining moment came a minute before the half-time break when John Curtis tried a back pass, only to see his goalkeeper had already raced off the line and the ball trickled across the line at an agonisingly slow speed to earn Gillingham the win.

Dover chairman John Husk stepped down after 18 years with the club to be replaced by Jim Gleeson.

Singing for England

DAVID PRITCHARD talks to sports minister Hugh Robertson as he prepares to jet to Zurich this week to garner last-minute support for England's bid to stage the World Cup in 2018, with Fifa set to announce the winning nation on Thursday

THE RACE to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup comes to an end next week, with sports minister Hugh Robertson among a high-profile delegation lobbying behind the scenes to ensure football comes home.

Fifa will announce the winner on Thursday in a contest seen by most observers as too close to call. England face stiff opposition from Russia and a joint bid from Spain-Portugal for the 22 votes on the executive committee, while the Netherlands-Belgium bid is viewed as the outsider.

Robertson, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, flies to Zurich on Tuesday alongside Prime Minister David Cameron, Prince William and 2018 ambassador David Beckham in an effort to gain last-minute support.

Impact

Although the process has officially been running for more than 18 months, Robertson believes the final few days could have an impact on the outcome.

"We will be doing everything we possibly can to try and influence those final few votes," he said. "I think there's such a battle to be fought for second and third choices, this is so close it will be where it is decided."

"The England bid is technically very strong indeed. We have the stadia, we can fill them and drive a really good commercial return and through the global reach of English football, we can have a really strong legacy."

England's bid was given a favourable review by Fifa's inspection team, but the politics of awarding major sporting events makes them hard to predict. Robertson knows what is needed after being in Singapore five years ago when London beat favourites Paris to win the 2012 Olympic bid.

The build-up to the announcement in this



HOPEFUL: (l-r) Hugh Robertson and Barry Bright both believe England's bid is good enough to land the Fifa World Cup in 2018

country has been dominated by media reports which critics feel have damaged England's chances. A Sunday Times investigation into corruption led to Fifa suspending two of its executive committee, while there is unease about the BBC's plans to broadcast on Monday night a Panorama special into the bidding process.

Robertson said: "I actually take a slightly contrary view on all of this. I absolutely defend the right of the media to expose corruption if it exists. [But] we have to be careful at times like this we don't get sensationalised journalism, that can do real damage."

"I'm sure the Sunday Times did the right thing, Fifa took it seriously and took action. There's talk of Panorama on Monday and the timing couldn't be more difficult, but it remains to be seen what is in it."

Barry Bright, vice-chairman of the Football Association and chairman of the Kent FA, feels the scale of the damage will not be known until Thursday's announcement. He preferred to emphasise the benefits a successful bid would bring.



BIG GUNS: England ambassador David Beckham with FIFA president Sepp Blatter

"Obviously for English football it would be a fantastic boost across the board at all levels," he said. "I think it's time the World Cup came back to England, 1966 was a long time ago. For many involved with the game they never experienced that. We experienced a superb European Championships here in 1996, which was a great occasion and it will lift the people in this country whether they are a football fan or not."

Although no games would be staged in Kent, if England were successful, Dartford could be in line for a boost. Princes Park was included in the bid as one of 82 'Team Base Camp Clusters', which may see teams use the facility for training during the tournament.

Senior stars gather to back next generation

DAME Kelly Holmes was among the veteran athletes passing on their experience to rising stars at the first Backing Talent in Kent event.

More than 100 promising athletes were on hand to learn from senior internationals across a wide range of sports last weekend.

They included Nathan Marsh, national biathlon champion from Sevenoaks, and Benenden's Lewis Gray, England's number one table tennis player at under-16 level.

Hugh Robertson, minister for sport and the Olympics, also addressed the group at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Gray said: "Having the chance to learn from Olympians here has helped me have a better understanding of what I will have to do to fulfil my potential and reach the top in my sport."

It follows the success of similar events elsewhere in the country and was organised by the DKH Legacy Trust.



SUPPORT: Dame Kelly with table tennis star Lewis Gray

Holmes was thrilled with the response from the youngsters, whose development will now be monitored to help them get to the top.

She said: "Seeing the next generation of elite athletes here wanting to learn from the Backing Talent athletes has shown how important it is for people like me to give back to sport."

"I wish I had this opportunity growing up, but I'm glad I can offer it now to Kent's talented performers through the support of my charity."

Chong nets place for GB under-20s

A TALENTED Invicta Dynamos prospect will swap third division domestic ice hockey for the glamour of the Junior World Championships after earning a call-up to the Great Britain squad.

The tournament in Belarus next month will be Liam Chong's first experience at under-20 level, where Britain will face group games against Italy, Japan, Latvia, Ukraine and the hosts.

It is not the forward's first taste of international hockey, after playing at the under-18s version of the tournament in April.

The 18-year-old will be one of the youngest players in the squad and is one of only two selected from the English National League (ENL), which he was particularly satisfied about.

He said: "I was happy I made it in my first year because not many do."

I think I'm one of only two from the ENL as well, so that's quite an achievement.

"I'm excited, it's a really high standard of hockey. I'm not really sure what to expect because I played in the under-18s Division One, but I've heard the under-20s is a step up, so I've been training hard to get ready."

Chong returned to the UK this summer after a spell playing in the United States hoping to get into a second-tier English Premier League side. Failing to find a team, he dropped into the ENL with the Mos.

Kevin Parrish, head coach at the Gillingham-based club, said: "Liam's a good kid and definitely deserves the credit he's getting. To be in the under-20 squad a year early shows what he's like."

The tournament begins on December 13.



WORLD STAGE: Liam Chong is part of the GB Junior World Championships squad



TEAM-MATES: 'Shakey' Byrne will have to overcome three-time British champion and fellow HM Plant Honda rider Ryuichi Kiyonari (left)

Shakey says British Superbike return is no backwards step

SUPERBIKE star Shane 'Shakey' Byrne insists his return to the British Championship (BSB) with HM Plant Honda is not a backward step in his career.

The two-time British champion, who finished 10th in the World Superbike Championship (WSB) this year with Althea Racing before being dropped by the team, was unveiled alongside Ryuichi Kiyonari at HM Plant Honda this week.

With Ashford-based GSE Racing no longer competing in superbikes, Byrne's new team are the championship's most successful with more than 70 race wins.

Shakey, from Sheppey, who has endured dif-

By **TOM HOWARD**

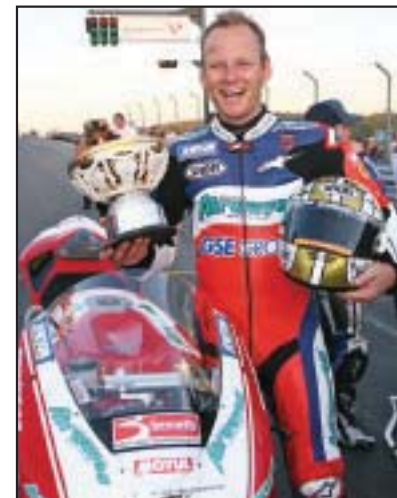
ficult spells in Moto GP and in the WSB, is determined to secure another British title and insists the move is a good one for his career.

The 33-year-old said: "I think I can win titles with the team and some people will see it as a backward step, but to win races and titles in this championship is a great career path.

Motivation

"It is some mean feat to win the British championship. I'm certainly not thinking about finishing racing, Max Biaggi was 40 when he won the world title this year."

Although he has two titles to his name, Byrne will face a tough challenge next season



going up against three-time British champion Kiyonari and hopes to lay to rest the theory that he is only successful on board a Ducati.

He said: "To win a race again is obviously an aim and to be in the mix for the shoot-out over the final three rounds. Racing and achieving success on a four-cylinder machine is a big motivation for me as people have said that I'm only successful on twins.

"I've never really been with a top team who run four-cylinder bikes so I'm looking forward to it. Unfortunately, I won't get to ride the bike for the first time until February, March time, which is frustrating.

"It's like being given the key to a sweet shop and then finding out there are no sweets left."

Byrne begins his quest for a third British title at home circuit Brands Hatch on April 25.



As part of our new weekly series, we bring you the pick of the week's tweets from the county's sports stars

THE start of the Ashes got several Kent cricketers tweeting furiously in the early hours.

A career in punditry clearly awaits Kent and England women's skipper Charlotte Edwards (pictured), who nailed her first innings score prediction @Lottie2323: "Why we love Test cricket hey!!! Thoughts on England total?? I think 257!!!!"

Which was somewhat more accurate than the optimistic Rob Key @robkey612: "Right going to bed. England 345-5 at stumps. Cook 90 not out at close. Enjoy."

After returning from a tour with England's women to Sri Lanka, Susie Rowe's enthusiasm waned rapidly @susierowe6: "Jetlagged and really want to go to bed right now, but want to stay up for the cricket... need to plan some lessons for tomorrow too! Er... think I should just go to bed now... wicket maiden to start is not ideal."

After waiting 18 months for an away victory Gillingham are suddenly the best travellers since Michael Palin after wins at Oxford and Barnet in the space of four days.

So, how to celebrate? Veteran centre-half Matt Lawrence had a couple of ideas in the aftermath of the Barnet win @mat-tylawrence: "I'm watching the beach volleyball purely for the skill and grace!! Haribos at 2.47am is the diet of true champions!"

Shane Byrne announced his plans for next season this week, but the good news was soured by some motoring frustration @67Shakey: "Getting really annoyed with the M25 right now, big sections down to 1 lane, but not a road worker in sight nowhere!! "Ahhhh, there you go, they're collecting the cones up again now, must have been some comedians idea of a joke... I don't get it!!!!"

Follow us at www.twitter.com/kentsport for the latest sports news from around the county

Paffett under no pressure as DTM title decider looms

FORMULA One test driver Gary Paffett is involved in a three-way shoot-out to decide the destination of the DTM title.

The McLaren Formula One driver has hot-footed it from an F1 test in Abu Dhabi to China for this weekend's final round of the popular German Touring Car Championship.

The 29-year-old from Bromley has an outside shot at the title, but will need to win Sunday's race at the newly-built Shanghai

street circuit and rely on mistakes from rivals Bruno Spengler and Paul Di Resta.

Paffett, who won the title in 2005 and finished runner-up last year, is nine points behind championship leader Spengler, but says he is not under pressure for the vital final round.

He said: "I'm feeling good and really relaxed because I am the outsider really and there isn't a lot of pressure to win the title."



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

JETS: Paffett (right) flew in from Abu Dhabi

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DEAL: Darren Stevens is staying with Kent

Stevo signs one year extension

KENT all-rounder Darren Stevens is the first player to commit his future to the club after signing a new contract extension this week.

The 34-year-old, named Kent's Player of the Year for 2010, has put an end to rumours linking him with a move away from St Lawrence by signing a deal that will keep him at the club beyond the end of 2011, when his current contract expires.

Stevens signed a one-year extension to his deal which means he will be staying at Kent until the end of 2012.

The former Leicestershire man topped the batting averages last summer hitting 935 runs at 44.52 and was an integral member of the bowling unit, claiming 27 wickets at 26.85.

He said: "I am very much looking forward to playing for the club over the next two seasons. "I have enjoyed my time in Kent and wanted to show my commitment by signing this new extended deal. I remain fully committed to helping the club push forward, both on and off the field."

Head coach Paul Farbrace added: "We are all delighted that Darren has chosen to extend his deal for the next two seasons as he is a high quality player."

"He did very well last season and was justifiably named Kent Player of the Year."

Stevens left for New Zealand this week, where he will play for the Otago Volts in the this year's HRV Twenty20 Cup.

Kent wicketkeeper Geraint Jones tells sports editor **GLENN PEARSON** the club needs a period of consolidation before eyeing a return to the top flight of the County Championship

Division One is a step too far, warns Jones

Pictures: ADY KERRY

GERAINT Jones has hinted that Kent's focus might not be entirely on promotion back to Division One of the County Championship next year.

Kent were relegated on the final day of the season, despite victory against Yorkshire at Headingley, in a campaign that was blighted by injury and then unrest in the dressing room as a result of the club's financial concerns.

Fears the county were going to sell off their best players were quickly played down and the club are now cautiously optimistic of adding a player or two before the start of next season.

Skipper Rob Key will still be operating with a small squad with the emphasis on developing the county's young talent, and it's for that reason that Jones, the Kent wicketkeeper, believes a season of consolidation in Division Two might not be such a bad thing.

"I think the plan is always to win the competition you are in and that means going straight up to Division One, but it depends a bit on injuries and we do have a reduced squad," he said. "I don't think it's a bad thing if we have more than one season in Division Two to help those younger players who have been given a chance. I think it showed last year we were not strong enough to compete in Division One

regularly enough. If we can have a year or two developing youngsters and then make a big push, that should be an option."

"There were a few outside issues that affected us perhaps more than we realised, but the good thing is that's behind us now and the development is well under way so the future looks a lot brighter."

The 34-year-old watched on as his teammates expressed their concern at the departure of Amjad Khan towards the end of the season, but the 2005 Ashes winner signalled his intent to stay and fight, right from the outset.

"If anything it made me want to stay with Kent more," he said. "I want to stay and help these youngsters and bring them on because Kent will be going long beyond my career."

"I was pretty disappointed to hear that people were willing to jump ship and leave, if anything it made me want to stay and help fight things and bring the club on."

"I'm happy the guys have now realised we are in better shape and are deciding to stay."

Jones says he understands why some players looked at options potentially away from St Lawrence, but expressed his delight that one of those, Darren Stevens, chose to sign a contract extension this week.

He said: "There were quite a few guys looking at their options and justifiably so because there was talk of the financial state the club were in."

CONSOLIDATION: Geraint Jones says Kent need to build towards a return to Division One



Trio in bid for Indian Premier League spot

THREE Kent players have put their names forward to be included in next year's Indian Premier League.

Simon Cook, Joe Denly (pictured) and Darren Stevens have asked to be put on the list for the Twenty20 competition that will eventually be narrowed down before going to an auction in January.

If Denly, Stevens or Cook were picked by one of the Indian franchise teams, it would mean missing the start of the season with Kent, although only a handful of English-based cricketers have been picked in the last three years.

Skipper Rob Key has previously put his name forward in the last two years, but it's believed he has not done so for next year's tournament.

"Those guys have careers ahead of them and want to win trophies and realistically the funds that were going to be available to us would mean we were struggling."

"Hopefully things are a bit better now and has caused guys like Stevo to sign extensions and they are the ones we want to keep."

"If we lost them, we would just become the whipping boys."

Lashings to hold more talks with exile Zulqarnain

LASHINGS will hold further talks with exiled Pakistan cricketer Zulqarnain Haider next week after making initial contact on Monday.



NEGOTIATIONS: Lashings' David Folb

David Folb, chairman of the Maidstone-based club, spoke with the 24-year-old over the phone with a view to offering a contract.

The prospect of a deal remains up in the air, with no agreement reached before Folb flew to Abu Dhabi for business on Monday night.

Instead, both parties have agreed to meet shortly after his expected return, next Friday.

Zulqarnain fled to the UK earlier this month after claiming he had been threatened by a match-fixing ring. Lashings believe they are well placed to help after signing the wicket-keeper's compatriot Rashid Latif and Henry Olonga from Zimbabwe, who faced similar difficulties in their homelands.

Heavyweight Dallas a wanted man

UNDEFEATED heavyweight Tom Dallas is attracting invitations from some of the world's top boxers ahead of a potential British title fight next year.

The 25-year-old has made a perfect start to his career since turning professional in 2008.

A victory inside three rounds against Paul Morris last month was his 12th successive win, nine of which have come via knockout.

The steady progress has seen the Chatham roofer break into Britain's top-10 heavyweights.

Dallas has been training with David Price and John McDermott, ranked just below him nationally, but his reputation is beginning to catch the eye of bigger names.

Invitation

Albert Sosnowski, who fought Vitali Klitschko for the WBC title in May, asked Dallas to train with him in Poland earlier this month, while British champion Derek Chisora extended an invitation to spar this week.

Other commitments prevented Dallas from taking up either offer, but Mark Roe, his manager, felt it demonstrated a growing reputation ahead of a critically important 2011.

"Tom is mentioned now because there



Picture: ADY KERRY



IN DEMAND: Tom Dallas (left) was asked to help Derek Chisora (above) help prepare for his world heavyweight title challenge against Wladimir Klitschko next month

are experienced guys out there who want him," he said. "That will help his development."

"We will be looking closely at the [next] opponent for Tom because I feel next year will be very important to make headway for a British title. It may well come towards the end of the year."

Dallas' next outing is due to be in front of home fans at Medway Park on February 4. The event, which was due to feature a host of

Kent boxers, was to be held last Saturday, but organisational problems prompted Roe to postpone.

He said: "There were a few things that stopped it going ahead. By the time we got sorted out I wasn't sure whether it was enough time to arrange all the tickets and publicity we needed. To be on the safe side we decided to postpone until February, which gives us eight clear weeks to do it properly."

Gills meet away-day problem head on

HOW DOES a team which cannot win away for 18 months triumph twice on the road in four days?

Plenty of Gillingham fans may have pondered that question on the way home from watching the 2-1 victory at Barnet on Tuesday night, which came hot on the heels of a 1-0 win at Oxford last weekend.

Injuries, bad luck, poor refereeing decisions and better opposition have all been used to explain the 34-game winless run, but the latest addition to the club's back-room staff believes differently.

Sports psychologist Ashley Lawrence was brought in following the side's humiliating FA Cup defeat to Dover earlier this month.

Since then the former Gills youth-team player has come in twice a week to speak to the squad and believes success is all in the mind.

He said: "If you look through all the players in the division, 10 per cent will be physically better and

10 per cent not as good, so there are 80 per cent in the middle that are roughly the same. "So what's the bit that lifts them above that? It's psychological, not about ability. It's that edge and if you can get five per cent more, then you're going to do well.

"The Gillingham team and the squad is fantastic. There was nothing wrong in there, it's just giving them that little bit extra.

"One of the things I did with the players on the first day was on them thinking negatively. Any sort of negativity does reduce from your ability to perform at the highest level."

While the use of psychologists is common at the top level, it can still be met with some scepticism further down the league pyramid.

Gillingham manager Andy Hessenthaler said: "Some don't take to it, I've got to say I don't take to it personally, as an individual I don't need



MENTAL EDGE: Ashley Lawrence has been brought in by Andy Hessenthaler (left) to improve Gills players' mindset

that, but some players do like the one-to-one stuff. Ashley's come in and instilled a little bit of confidence and belief in the group."

It was a new method for Garry Richards, but the centre-back has seen the benefits.

He said: "It's early stages but it seems to be working. He gives you that mental lift, football is as much mental as it is physical and if you get that extra 10 per cent out of it that's a good thing."

Picture: ADY KERRY

Stone broke, but he didn't give up hope

After breaking his leg twice, versatile Ebbsfleet man vows to make most of second chance at Stonebridge Road

By **STEVE TERVET**

RECOVERY from a career-threatening injury has offered Ebbsfleet United utility man Craig Stone a fresh outlook on the sport he once thought he would never play again.

Having broken his leg playing for the Fleet in February, 2009, Stone then suffered a second break during his rehabilitation and he feared football may have dealt him the cruellest blow imaginable.

However, the 21-year-old is now back at the club he supported as a boy after working to regain his fitness during an infuriating spell on the sidelines, and insists the scare will serve as a motivational tool for the rest of his career.

Recalling the initial injury he sustained in a game against Wrexham, Stone described how shock soon turned to genuine fear as the injury took a turn for the worse.

"It all happened so quickly," he said. "The next thing, you're in plaster at home and your feet are up so it was a little bit of a novelty. It wasn't a good thing, you don't really know what's going on.

"When I had a little bit of a setback with the injury and it went again, that was a killer, that was when I thought 'am I ever going to be able to get back?' I always knew I wanted to get back, but I wondered whether it was going to be one of those things that you read and hear about all the time, when players don't come back the same.



LIFELINE: Craig Stone says not a lot of managers would have given him the chance Liam Daish (left) did to prove he could recover from his career-threatening injuries

"You think someone's telling you maybe it's not going to be, but I've used it as a kick up the backside – I was doing all right but I can do a lot better. I've been out a long time and I don't want to miss any more football.

"I'm lucky to have been given another chance and I'm willing to grab it with both hands."

That chance was handed to Stone by Ebbsfleet manager Liam Daish, who decided to bring him back to Stonebridge Road after watching him trial in pre-season.

The move followed a spell at Maidstone United last season and having made the Fleet



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

right-back position his own this term, Stone has become an integral member of the side.

"There's not a lot of managers out there who would have given me a chance," he said.

"The gaffer knew there was still plenty of work to do after the injuries, but he said he'd work hard if I did the same to get back to where I was.

"Part of the reason I rang him was because everyone at the club's been brilliant and it's great to be around here, where I used to come and watch and where I know a lot of the fans."



Picture: DAVE PLUMB

CASH INJECTION: Welling United (in yellow)

FA Trophy cash boost for Wings

WELLING United are set for a timely cash injection after being handed a trip to non-league giants Luton Town in the first round of the FA Trophy.

Having already been deducted five league points for financial irregularities this season, the cash-strapped club are in advanced takeover talks and the December 11 trip to Kenilworth Road will further swell the Wings' coffers.

Luton have averaged home crowds of more than 6,500 in Conference Premier this season and with Welling set to earn a share of the gate, it's music to the ears of chairman Paul Websdale.

"The gate money will definitely help in our situation," he said. "The financial side of it will obviously help us as a smaller club and that's an advantage for us. In the trophy the attendances may vary a bit, but it's certainly a good thing for us, a smaller club with smaller gates.

"It's a good draw – if you don't get a home draw you want one like this and it gives the players a real incentive to go out and show what they can do against a side like Luton. We feel we've got a real chance of doing well so we'll go there with a positive view."

Under the guidance of player-manager Jamie Day, the Wings have made a storming start to the season in Conference South and despite the points deduction, they sat just six points behind leaders Bromley prior to this weekend.

However, the Luton trip will provide their stiffest test of the campaign, with the Hatters desperate to return to the Football League after losing in the Conference play-offs last season.

Purcell first of two Dartford signings?

DARTFORD boss Tony Burman has freshened up his squad with the signing of former Ebbsfleet United forward George Purcell.

The Darts have made a slow start to life in Conference South and Burman has now decided to dabble in the transfer market by bringing in Purcell from York City on a one-month loan deal. The move comes just days after the Darts sent midfielders Lee Noble and Ollie Berquez out on loan to Concord Rangers and Billericay Town respectively, to help free up room for squad additions. Burman says Purcell, who is yet to start for York this season after undergoing ankle surgery, may not be the only new recruit joining the club after admitting he is in the market for two players.

He said: "We are looking to bring in one or two players. We have played 10 games in this league now and we know we haven't quite got it right yet."



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

NEW RECRUIT: George Purcell

EYE FOR AN EYE

Gouging victim to take legal action after player accused of blinding him is cleared

THE victim of a deliberate gouging which left him blind in one eye has vowed to launch legal action after the player accused of injuring him was cleared this week.

Clarence Harding suffered the injury playing for Gravesend against Maidstone in the Kent County Cup in January.

The police found insufficient evidence to act when they looked into the incident, and after a

EXCLUSIVE

By STEVE TERVERT

Rugby Football Union (RFU) hearing was held this week, they found Maidstone's Matt Iles "not guilty" of the act. Although they recognised Harding had been deliberately gouged, no individual was proved to be the assailant.

Maidstone will discover next week whether the RFU will take action against them, after the sport's governing body were unable to identify the player who injured Harding.

The 27-year-old, whose life has been severely affected since the injury, said he was disappointed with the outcome and now intends to explore a different line of investigation.

Harding said: "Because the RFU are going to sanction Maidstone, I will seek legal advice for a civil action."

"I'm obviously disappointed because it's not the outcome we hoped for, but all's not lost yet. They're not questioning the severity – the fact there was a gouge is beyond all reasonable doubt. The gouge victim, me, paid the ultimate price for the gouge, but what they want to know is who did it. If it wasn't him, it was someone else."

"When it happened, I took four months off work and I then had to quit my job because I was a health and safety risk. My job got cut from 10 hours per day to two, two-hour shifts."

Harding, who became a father earlier



SEEKING JUSTICE: Clarence Harding will never play rugby again after being blinded in his right eye when gouged playing for Gravesend against Maidstone last year



Picture: COLIN READ

this month, said he will not play rugby again.

After considering the evidence, Judge Jeff Blackett, who sat on the three-man RFU disciplinary panel, was left in no doubt Harding had not been the victim of a tragic accident.

He concluded: "The injury was caused by a deliberate act of a Maidstone player. We are unable to determine who that was, so we are going to place our findings before the RFU company secretary and legal officer to determine whether Maidstone Rugby Club should be brought to account."

In response to the ruling, Maidstone released a statement stressing no hard evidence had been found to implicate any of their players.

When contacted by Kent on Sunday, club chairman Andy Golding, added: "If I ever suspected anybody of doing anything like this, they would metaphorically hang from the nearest lamp post."

"People will think there's no smoke without fire, but we have kept our silence so as not to prejudice the investigations."

"Bearing in mind we've been through our own investigation, a CID investigation and now two RFU hearings, nothing's been found and we've done everything in our power to help those bodies."

It is unclear exactly what form the RFU's punishment could take, although Maidstone could be hit with a fine, points deduction or even relegation.

Club face drop after 15-point deduction

A MASS brawl which caused a Deal & Betteshanger home game to be abandoned last month has left the east Kent rugby club with a 15-point deduction.

Players, coaches and spectators were all involved in the clashes during the fixture against East Grinstead on October 30, prompting referee Steve Halligan to abandon the game.

An RFU disciplinary hearing decided both clubs should face

identical penalties, with an additional 15-point deduction suspended until the end of next season.

The ruling said: "The events shown on the DVD footage cannot, and should not, be described as anything other than utterly shameful. They have no place in the game of rugby (or any sport) and offend against the heart of the game's ethos and the RFU's Core Values programme. Had such events occurred in the street it

is highly likely they would have led to criminal prosecution."

Both sides pleaded guilty to the charge of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the union and/or game.

Neither challenged Halligan's written report, which read: "In the space of only a few seconds, the scuffle engulfed all players, subs, coaching staff and spectators. I saw a D&B sub move past me becoming involved, EG subs involved, the EG coaches involved, I saw a person later

identified as the D&B head coach involved and end up on the floor being punched and throwing punches and spectators pulling people away throwing punches."

The Deal & Betteshanger committee have not yet decided whether to appeal against the ruling, which would leave them deep in relegation trouble in London 2 South East. They have two weeks to decide, while East Grinstead have said they are unlikely to appeal.



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Gills defender Richards nearing full fitness

AFTER enduring the worst injury of his playing career Gary Richards is set to return for Gillingham's reserves next week a changed man, writes David Pritchard.

While Simon King's 18-month absence has been well documented, the prolonged absence of his centre-half partner has also been keenly felt in the Gills' slow start to the season.

Richards was last seen being stretchered off in agony following a freak collision with team-mate Alan Julian during a game at Millwall in April. It left the 24-year-old with frac-

tures in his foot and serious ligament damage, ruling him out for the remainder of the season.

"The way it turned in the ground I was a bit worried about looking down and seeing the state of it," he said. "I had to ask the physio whether it was intact."

Richards was fortunate to avoid the need for surgery, but his desire to return in time for the start of this season exacerbated the problem.

After making one brief appearance in pre-season it quickly became clear the injury had not completely healed.

He said: "Your heart rules your head a bit because you're so desperate to be in contention for the start of the season. Through my own eagerness I ended up refracturing a bone in my foot."

It has meant a tedious three months going through rehabilitation alongside King in the Priestfield treatment room.

Encouragingly, both players are expected to feature for the reserves on Tuesday and could be back in the first-team shortly, which would be a significant boost to the squad's defensive resources.



FRACTURE: Gary Richards

Picture: ADY KERRY